United Nations S/PV.7147

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7147th meeting
Monday, 24 March 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Lucas	(Luxembourg)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Nigeria	Mr. Sarki
	Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2014/162)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-27334 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2014/162)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Uruguay to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mays-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/162, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

I now give the floor to Ms. Honoré.

Ms. Honoré (*spoke in French*): I would like to express my gratitude to Luxembourg as President of the Security Council and to all of the members of the Council for convening this meeting to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2014/162). I also take this opportunity to welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

I wish to thank in particular all of the countries that contribute troops and police to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Member States that have collaborated in the stabilization and reconstruction process for their valuable support to the consolidation of peace and democracy in Haiti.

(*spoke in English*)

Since my last briefing to the Security Council in August 2013 (see S/PV.7024), the overall security situation in Haiti has remained relatively stable. As compared to 2012, the year 2013 saw a decrease in major crimes, including homicides and kidnappings, by 21 and 53 per cent, respectively. While the first half of the reporting period witnessed a 57 per cent increase in demonstrations, notably in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and other urban areas across the country, most were peaceful and largely triggered by socioeconomic grievances.

The performance of the Haitian National Police continued to improve and the security situation in the five departments vacated by MINUSTAH's military component remained stable. However, when the capacity of the National Police was put to severe test, operational support by MINUSTAH forces was often necessary. Further strengthening of the police therefore remains a critical stabilization benchmark for MINUSTAH.

Turning to the political situation, I would first like to commend Haiti's political leaders for choosing the path of dialogue and reaching an agreement on holding elections this year. I would furthermore like to congratulate the Conférence Episcopale d'Haïti and its President, Cardinal Chibly Langlois, for successfully mediating an agreement resulting from a step unprecedented in Haitian political history when, on 24 January, an inter-Haitian dialogue between the executive branch, Parliament and political parties was launched to discuss issues of democratic governance, elections and amending the Constitution. The formal signing of the El Rancho accord by the executive, the legislature and participating political parties was finally accomplished on 14 March. The accord stipulates that one election will be held this year, combining the long-delayed local, municipal and partial senatorial elections with those foreseen for the end of 2014, that is, for a second third of the Senate and for the entire Chamber of Deputies.

As outlined in the accord, key provisions to be implemented within a 10-day time frame include amending the electoral law to confer the appropriate mandate on the Electoral Council; replacing up to one member of the Electoral Council by each of the three State powers; and a Cabinet reshuffle to include individuals drawn from interested political parties. A commission has been established to monitor the implementation of those provisions. A number of signatories to the accord expressed reservations about certain provisions, signalling the likelihood that

further negotiations will be necessary to facilitate their implementation.

The long-awaited adoption and promulgation of an electoral law in December 2013, along with the accord of 14 March emanating from the inter-Haitian dialogue, have prepared a path towards inclusive and transparent elections to be held later this year, a sine qua non for Parliament's continuous functioning in January 2015. It is now critically important that the Haitian authorities implement the provisions of the accord, including the amendment of the electoral law, in a timely manner. To that end, MINUSTAH, along with members of the international community represented in Haiti, are engaging Haiti's key political actors.

With regard to the economic situation, there is reason for cautious optimism and renewed hope, owing to the economic growth rate of 4.3 per cent in 2013, which has provided the Haitian Government with an important building block for more sustainable and equitable development. Post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation has continued, and of the 1.5 million people housed in camps in the aftermath of the tragedy of January 2010, only an estimated 146,573 people remain in temporary camps. Notwithstanding that achievement, it is a humanitarian imperative that the Government follow through its commitment to ensuring the orderly closure of those camps and finding durable solutions for the displaced, who continue to live under adverse conditions or to face forced evictions.

The fact that some 600,000 Haitians still face severe food insecurity is cause for concern, as is the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children, which increased from 5.1 per cent in 2012 to 6.5 per cent in 2013.

While the number of suspected cholera cases has been reduced significantly every year, falling from 352,033 cases in 2011 to 58,608 in 2013, more must be done, since Haiti still has the highest number of cholera cases in the world. Delivering and sustaining better health requires an urgent, scaled-up effort to combat the disease and address decades of underinvestment in basic systems for safe water, hygiene, sanitation and health care. The United Nations system in Haiti has developed a two-year, $68 million initiative in support of the Government's 10-year national plan for the elimination of cholera. In addition, the United Nations and the Government of Haiti are finalizing the establishment of a high-level committee to oversee the coordinated implementation of the cholera response measures, as outlined in the national plan.

In accordance with resolution 2119 (2013), regarding MINUSTAH's further conditions-based consolidation, the Mission is on target to achieve a 15 per cent reduction of its uniformed strength and reach the mandated strength of 5,021 military troops by the end of June 2014. The strength of the police component remains at 2,601. Given the gains in stabilization since 2004, the Secretary-General is confident that Haiti and its partners can continue moving forward with the ongoing consolidation process. Furthermore, in his August 2013 report (S/2013/493), the Secretary-General indicated his intention to explore the best way for the United Nations to continue contributing to greater stability and development in Haiti beyond 2016.

On the basis of an initial review and the activities of MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, five broad options have been identified and proposed in the Secretary-General's latest report. They include, first, designating a United Nations special envoy for Haiti to deliver political good offices; secondly, establishing a special political mission with continued support for police development through individual police officers and assistance to rule-of-law and human-rights efforts; thirdly, establishing a smaller, more focused peacekeeping mission without a military presence and a continued and possibly increased country-wide United Nations police presence. It is important to note that no United Nations military presence is envisioned under the first three options. A fourth option would establish a smaller, more focused peacekeeping mission with United Nations police and a small military presence; a fifth would adjust MINUSTAH's current mandate to reflect a reduced scope of its activities, achieved through the completion of the consolidation plan.

The United Nations remains firmly committed to including key national and international stakeholders in the consultative process, leading ultimately to determining which option is the most appropriate to ensure not only that Haiti benefits in every way from a successful transition to a newly configured United Nations presence beyond 2016, but also that the stabilization achievements are preserved and sustained. Obviously, consultations will also take place with the Government of Haiti. To this end, a full scale, United Nations-wide strategic assessment should be conducted to provide the Council with an updated, in-depth evaluation of conditions on the ground.

In parallel with the process just described, a revision of the 2013-2016 United Nations integrated strategic framework for Haiti is being envisaged, in coordination with Haitian Government counterparts and the donor community, to identify priority areas for the United Nations country team's strategic engagement as the Mission consolidates. In the meantime, it is important that the Government and MINUSTAH continue to work on multiple fronts to attain the stabilization benchmarks outlined in the MINUSTAH consolidation plan.

Concerning the development of the Haitian National Police, MINUSTAH, together with our international partners, continues to support the Haitian Government and the police in the implementation of the HNP development plan for 2012-2016. With the objective of achieving a minimum of 15,000 active police officers by 2016, the twenty-fourth promotion graduated 1,058 cadets, including 111 women, in December 2013. The twenty-fifth promotion, set to start soon, will have an expected 1,250 cadets and will be completed by the end of 2014. The current strength of the Haitian National Police is 11,228 active police officers, including 950 women.

The further development of the Haitian police is vital to ensure enduring stability in Haiti. Notwithstanding the progress achieved in the build-up of a professional and accountable police force and the important contributions made by bilateral partners to the police development plan, resources are still insufficient to achieve all the targets of this plan. The sustained commitment of the Haitian Government and the continuous generous assistance of the international community will remain critical not only to enabling the National Police to progressively assume full responsibility for internal security, but also to strengthening required management and administrative capacity, oversight mechanisms and the development of specialized units.

Progress in the professionalization of the HNP needs to be complemented by similar improvements in other areas of the rule of law, notably in the justice and corrections sector. The Mission is supporting the presidential commission on judicial reform and a law reform working group with a view to finalizeing a new criminal code. Updating Haiti's antiquated criminal code and criminal procedure is a preoccupation for Haitian jurists, human rights advocates and MINUSTAH. Similarly, the Mission continues to work with Haitian authorities and international partners to reduce lengthy periods of pre-trial detention and to improve deplorable prison conditions. However, the Government of Haiti needs to develop a more strategic, comprehensive and sustained approach to reforming the justice system as a whole. Concerning respect for the rule of law, it is equally important that key oversight and accountability mechanisms be rendered operational and allowed to operate independently.

With respect to the forthcoming electoral process, the United Nations continues to provide technical advice and capacity-building support to the Electoral Council, which has the constitutional responsibility for the organization of the elections. However, the Mission's consolidation implies a more focused and strategic use of available assets in support of the national electoral authorities.

In relation to governance, MINUSTAH has concentrated its good offices on promoting dialogue among national stakeholders to overcome the electoral impasse. During the reporting period, despite the lingering stalemate between the executive branch and Parliament, Haiti saw the adoption of important legislation beyond the electoral law, such as the law on the financing of political parties, the law against money-laundering and terrorism financing, and the anti-corruption law for which MINUSTAH had been advocating.

(*spoke in French*)

In conclusion, Haiti is at a turning point where progress on peace, security and stability must be sustained through the consolidation of the democratic process, the rule of law, good governance and better support for the needs of the entire population. The promulgation of the electoral law and the recent signing of the El Rancho agreement, arising from the inter-Haitian dialogue process, mark important steps towards the holding of elections in 2014.

The commitment shown by national stakeholders to dialogue as a means of agreement is a victory for Haiti. I hope that the dialogue will continue and deepen so as to respond to the many challenges the country faces. It is in the national interest that Haitian political actors adhere to the spirit of the agreement in order to ensure that the country continues to move forward on the path towards the democracy and stabilization necessary for the sustainable socioeconomic development of the Haitian people.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Honoré for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Power (United States of America): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré for her briefing, which, together with the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/162), illuminates the impressive strides Haiti has made, as well as the challenges it continues to face.

Today, I should like to focus on three areas that are essential for the Council, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the international community to consider as we work with Haitians to build for the future. These are deepening security and the rule of law, ensuring consistent political progress, and finding the right scope and size for the United Nations presence in the country.

First, with respect to security, the United States welcomes the ongoing expansion and development of the Haitian National Police (HNP), and in particular its growing and demonstrated capacity to take on responsibility for Haiti's security. The relatively stable security situation reported by the Secretary-General, including in areas of the country that the MINUSTAH military component has already vacated, indicates strong progress on this front. While a larger professional police force remains necessary if sustained stability and the rule of law are to take root throughout Haiti, the Government of Haiti and its partners, including MINUSTAH, must also prioritize the development of the judiciary, the corrections system and oversight mechanisms. Further minimizing the number of prisoners held in pre-trial detention, for example, would be a key indicator of the Government's commitment to strengthening due process in the legal and corrections systems.

Like strong institutions, a democratic, functioning political process featuring regular elections is critical to Haiti's long-term stability. The gains made since the Council last met on Haiti in August 2013 (see S/PV.7024), culminating in this month's signing of the El Rancho agreement, are encouraging, and we commend Haiti's political leaders for making the difficult but necessary compromises to move the process forward so that the Haitian people can freely exercise their right to choose their Government representatives. The United States urges those same leaders to act without delay to amend the electoral law, as needed, and to stand up the provisional Electoral Council so that Haiti's election adminstrators will have sufficient time to organize — with the strong support of Haiti's partners, including MINUSTAH — elections in 2014 that are free, fair, credible and inclusive.

The United States also encourages Special Representative Honoré to continue to facilitate dialogue among political leaders and with civil society to ensure that disagreements about the electoral process or other areas of civic life are resolved swiftly so that they do not threaten Haiti's hard-won gains.

In the light of Haiti's progress, the United States welcomes the Secretary-General's presentation of possible alternate designs for the United Nations presence in Haiti beyond 2016, and we agree with the Secretary-General that an accelerated transition to a new United Nations configuration in Haiti could be considered if conditions on the ground permit. The United States urges the Secretary-General to conduct, as soon as possible, a strategic assessment that evaluates whether conditions, including expected election support requirements, warrant accelerating the transition to a new Mission structure or continuing the conditions of the base drawdown under way. We urge the Secretary-General to report his findings in his next report on Haiti to the Security Council.

The Council must continue to ensure that MINUSTAH's mandate, structure and size remain appropriate to Haiti's evolving circumstances. In that regard, we hope that the United Nations can provide more detailed reporting on the declining role of MINUSTAH forces in ensuring security in Haiti. For example, specific information over time on the number and type of incidents in which the HNP requested and received operational support, also organized by location and the type and number of MINUSTAH forces that responded, would be useful to determining where the HNP stands in progressing towards being able to assume full responsibility for Haiti's security. More information about the frequency of, and need for, independent MINUSTAH patrols, particularly by military elements, also would be useful to the Council's deliberations. We expect that such patrols would already be in steady decline, given the expansion of the HNP and the fact that they need to test their capacity while robust MINUSTAH operational support and advice remain available. At a minimum, those patrols should be conducted with the HNP, not independent of them.

Finally, the United States expresses its deep gratitude to two Brazilians. First, we thank Lieutenant General Pujol for his dedicated service as Force Commander. Secondly, we congratulate Lieutenant General Jaborandy on his appointment. The dedicated men and women of MINUSTAH have the utmost admiration and support of the United States as they work together with the Haitian people to build a more peaceful and prosperous future in Haiti.

Mr. Mangaral (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), for her briefing on MINUSTAH's work in Haiti.

The context of the establishment of MINUSTAH is complex — from the very precarious sociopolitical situation to the 2010 earthquake and the ravages of hurricane Sandy, which left more than 500,000 dead and thousands of wounded, as well as 1.2 million internally displaced and major physical and psychological damage. Under those conditions, reconstruction and stabilization is slow and painful. Stabilization will only be possible with the will and efforts of the Haitians themselves. We commend the work of the United Nations team and their commitment to support Haitians.

Chad notes with satisfaction the progress made in the national dialogue that began in January under the auspices of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti.

We are pleased at the consensus that all the parties reached in order to hold free, transparent senatorial and local elections. We thank the Mission for the technical support to strengthen the instruments needed for holding the upcoming elections.

On the security front, the Mission has effectively completed its mandate to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police. Chad actively contributes to the Mission with six trainers of trainers. We are pleased that there has been a greater inclusion and promotion of women in the police force with the objective of leading to a further decrease in the high crime rate, trafficking and the networks of organized crime in Haiti.

The humanitarian situation continues to be of concern, with more than 600,000 people needing humanitarian and food assistance, as well as aid in the areas of housing and basic sanitation. We are pleased that MINUSTAH has chosen to pursue lasting solutions and the creation of income-generating opportunities so that those people can be reintegrated into social and economic life of Haiti.

Immigration is another sensitive element in Haiti's development. Owing to the great number of immigrants in the region, promoting regional dialogue will be important for more humane and effective management of migration issues. We also encourage the Government of Haiti to invest in the diaspora, as it is a factor in encouraging and energizing the country's development.

Chad commends the progress made by the Haitian Government and MINUSTAH in terms of human rights. We note with satisfaction the efforts made by the Haitian justice system to bring to justice the perpetrators of abuses and violations committed under the previous regime, which has made it possible to reduce impunity considerably and to give more legitimacy and independence to the Haitian justice system.

In conclusion, I would like to say that MINUSTAH has carried out its mission. However, the holding of elections continues to be an essential challenge on the path to the democratic stabilization of Haiti. We call on all parties to continue the dialogue and to work for the social and economic stabilization of Haiti. Chad calls on the international community, through the Security Council, to provide all the necessary humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable population to bring about the stabilization of Haiti.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré for her briefing. China appreciates the vigorous efforts of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and, in particular, those of Ms. Honoré herself in maintaining peace and stability in Haiti.

In the recent period, the political and stabilization process in Haiti has registered continued progress. A new electoral law was enacted late last year, and the national dialogue process was launched earlier this year. The capacity of the Haitian National Police force continues to improve, and the security situation across the country, in particular the situation in the five departments vacated by the Mission, has remained stable. At the same time, tensions exist between the executive and legislative branches, coupled with sluggish economic growth and a precarious humanitarian situation. The peaceful reconstruction of the country remains an uphill battle. The improvement of the situation in Haiti requires first and foremost

concrete measures on the part of all stakeholders in Haiti. At the same time, the international community should actively provide assistance. China is of the view that, in the way forward, efforts must be made in the following three areas.

First, we must actively facilitate relevant election processes. We hope that all parties in Haiti will resolve their differences through dialogue and reach a consensus as early as possible on electoral matters, with a view to ensuring a smooth general election later this year and further consolidating national stability.

Secondly, the international community should take concrete steps to honour its pledges to Haiti and actively participate in the reconstruction process of Haiti. Haiti has the highest occurrence of cholera in the world, and the scale of the epidemic is alarming. China welcomes the efforts of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the elimination of cholera and welcomes the appointment of the Secretary-General's Senior Coordinator for Cholera Response. China calls on all Member States to continue to provide financial and technical support to Haiti's cholera control programme.

Thirdly, we hope that MINUSTAH, in accordance with the mandate given to the Mission by the Security Council, continues to assist Haiti in maintaining security and stability, promoting the political process and strengthening the rule of law and institutional capacity-building in order to provide a stable environment for the economic and social development of Haiti.

China has taken note of the preliminary options outlined by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with regard to the United Nations configuration in Haiti beyond 2016. We hope that the Secretariat, on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals and on the basis of careful study of the situation on the ground, will prepare a more detailed plan accordingly.

China stands ready to maintain close contact with other members of the Council in that regard.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for presenting the latest report (S/2014/162) of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

There have been many signs of stabilization in Haiti lately. Despite the civil unrest and the further exacerbation of tensions between the legislative and executive branches of Government late last year, the leadership of the country and the main political forces appear to have reached significant agreements in normalizing the political process. As a result of the inter-Haitian dialogue, it has been possible not only make those positive developments more sustainable, but also to move towards resolving the most acute issue, namely, the organization of elections, which we hope will take place in October. The successful holding of elections will be very important for stabilizing of public institutions and creating conditions that are favourable to the socioeconomic development of the country.

There has also been progress in many other key areas. The security situation remains relatively calm and the level of crime has been falling. There are also positive trends in the humanitarian sphere, although much remains to be done in terms of resolving the situation of internally displaced persons, ensuring food security and combating cholera. In that regard, we note the very positive efforts of the Haitian Government, including in coordinating donor assistance and the assistance provided through United Nations funds and programmes.

We also take note of the Secretary-General's data on the increased professionalism and manpower of the Haitian National Police. A significant contribution was made by the United Nations Mission, for which police training is one of the key components of its mandate. We consider that MINUSTAH should continue to provide assistance to Haiti in developing its law enforcement bodies and in strengthening law and order so that ultimately the country's security is being ensured by its own national police forces. However, it is also important for peacekeepers to provide operational support, if necessary, until the operation is completed.

We note with satisfaction the efforts of the Mission in other areas provided for under the mandate. It is hard to underestimate the long-standing contribution of the Mission in stabilizing the situation. An important role in stabilizing the country has also been played by regional integration bodies.

Overall, we share the assessment of the Secretary-General on the need to develop a holistic vision for MINUSTAH for the period after 2016. At the same time, the breadth of the various options for reconfiguration — from the full and practical retention of the peacekeeping mission in its form under the current mandate to its full withdrawal — clearly points to the fact that we should discuss concrete options very

carefully. Given the specific situation, it is important to be guided not only by an in-depth analysis of the situation this year, but also by the degree to which sustainable trends continue. It is also important to understand the extent to which it will be necessary to retain a significant military contingent. One important factor will be the pace at which responsibility for all aspects of stabilization and development is transferred to local authorities. Of particular importance will be their view on the most preferred forms of cooperation with the United Nations after 2016.

For the time being, the Government of the country and the international community, led by the United Nations, have a broad range of complex issues to address, a lead role in which should be played by the Haitian Government. It is the Government that is responsible for the effective use of the assistance provided by the international community and should play a very active role in coordinating that assistance.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré for her briefing. I align myself with the statements to be made on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Friends of Haiti.

Since the arrival of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Haiti has made enormous progress. The adoption of an electoral law last October is evidence of the ongoing normalization and progressive strengthening of the rule of law. We look forward also to the forthcoming partial local and senatorial elections that have been postponed several times.

In addition, the progress made by the Haitian National Police is encouraging. The significant decline in crime noted in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/162) is an important step forward. We are also pleased to note that an increasing number of cadets are graduating every year and that a growing number women are joining their ranks. Cooperation between the police component of MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police is fruitful and useful. In a context of reflection on the size and mandate of the peacekeeping operations, the example of Haiti gives us food for thought.

We also note with satisfaction the progress made in the humanitarian sphere. The return of refugees to their areas of origin and the drop in the number of people affected by food insecurity are encouraging signs. The wounds opened by the earthquake are gradually disappearing, thanks to the joint work of the Haitian Government, the people, MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team.

Much remains to be done, nonetheless. The rule of law and the country's institutions need to improve their efficiency, transparency and accessibility. The many protests by the civilian population illustrate the frustration, even exasperation, of the citizens who care to participate in the political life of their country. The launch of an inter-Haitian political dialogue in January, which is a praiseworthy initiative, should lead to an inclusive agreement. We therefore welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding on 19 March. We call on all parties to engage resolutely in the road map it defines.

In the field of human rights, we welcome the appointment of a human rights ombudsman on 4 December, the authorities' willingness to renew the mandate of the independent expert of the Human Rights Council and the denial of the appeal of Jean-Claude Duvalier, accused of crimes against humanity. Those decisions are encouraging, but violations of human rights continue. It is the responsibility of the State to pursue a proactive policy in that area.

Finally, the remaining humanitarian challenges are substantial. We are very concerned about a possible resurgence of the cholera epidemic during the next rainy season. We fully support the action and the commitment of the United Nations in its efforts to completely eradicate the disease. For those challenges that persist, the United Nations should support and complement the action of the Haitian State, but it cannot and should not replace it. The Haitian State must mobilize more resolutely to exercise its regulatory functions independently.

MINUSTAH was deployed in 2004 in a context of acute crisis. That crisis was exacerbated a few years later by the earthquake. Ten years later, as described by the Secretary-General in his report, the progress is real. MINUSTAH must therefore adapt and reflect the positive developments, which are proof of its success. A consolidation plan already oversees the reduction process initiated since 2013. That process will be completed in 2016.

We must go further and more quickly. Starting today, we must reflect on the post-MINUSTAH period and on the future of the United Nations presence in Haiti. In that regard, we welcome the five scenarios presented

by the Secretary-General for the reconfiguration of the Mission beyond 2016. We consider them to provide the framework for the reflection that we want to undertake.

In that context, a strategic review conducted by the Secretariat as soon as possible will be invaluable to the Council. Based on an accurate assessment of needs on the ground and presented to the Security Council by August 2014, such a review will allow members of the Council to define what type of mission is best suited after 2016 to the political and security situation in Haiti. Moreover, between now and 2016, it could also tells us whether it is possible to adapt the Mission more quickly and more radically.

Beyond its mission of good political offices policies, it seems essential at this point that the future United Nations mission in Haiti will maintain a strong police component. Needs in terms of public order and of training and support of the Haitian National Police and, more broadly, the building of the rule of law, are indeed the main challenges Haiti is facing and for which a response of the United Nations is the most relevant. It will be the heart of the future mission. We will therefore have to determine its contours in close coordination with the Haitian authorities and the Friends of Haiti.

Mr. Tatham (United Kingdom): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sandra Honoré, for her briefing today. We recognize the continued contribution of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to stability and progress in Haiti, and I would like to thank the departing Force Commander, Lieutenant General Edson Leal Pujol, for his service in MINUSTAH. We would also like to welcome Lieutenant General Jose Luiz Jaborandy Jr. as the new Force Commander.

Haiti stands in a stronger position today than it has for some time in recent history. As we see from the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/162), notable progress has been made in areas such as rehousing internally displaced persons, building the capacity of the Haitian National Police, who are taking greater responsibility for security throughout the country, and the striking downward trend in major crimes. We also welcome the economic growth reported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the building block that that provides for sustainable development.

However, those gains can be threatened by a lack of political progress in holding elections. In order to ensure Haiti's future development and stability, long-overdue local, municipal and partial senatorial elections must be held. Dialogue between the executive and parliamentary branches of Government and the political parties in Haiti is essential to resolve the political impasse. We urge all parties to address democratic governance, elections and constitutional amendments through the national dialogue process. As the Special Representative of the Secretary-General said, a path has been prepared towards inclusive and transparent elections. It is essential that that path be followed in 2014, leading to a clear destination in the form of the holding of elections.

We are pleased to see that the benchmarks laid out in the consolidation plan are on track, and we welcome the Secretary-General's assessment that those could be accelerated, given the progress in Haiti to date. The Haitian National Police are more visible, more proactive and more in the lead of security operations across Haiti. We applaud the advances made in recruitment, training and operational responsibility.

At the same time, in order to complement improvements in the Haitian National Police, the judicial and prison sectors must make similar advances. More work is necessary, in particular on the part of the Government of Haiti, to develop justice and accountability institutions. Today, those institutions provide limited access to justice, are weak and open to influence and maintain pre-trial detention periods that are unacceptable, and that must change.

We agree with the report of the Secretary-General that the functions likely to remain relevant beyond 2016 will be continued support for the development of the Haitian National Police, consolidation of political stabilization gains through good offices, continued strengthening of the rule of law through security sector and legislative reforms, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

With those tasks in mind, we agree with the report's assessment that the future United Nations presence in Haiti will need to have a more tailored mandate and a lighter footprint so as to ensure that the United Nations presence is appropriate to Haiti's needs today. We now await the outcomes of the strategic assessment and urge that to be conducted as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of that assessment in the next report of the Secretary-General.

We welcome the fact that the Secretary-General's recent report sets out a broad range of options,

particularly given what we have just heard about political progress and continued improvement in the performance of the Haitian National Police, and if those welcome trends are sustained, we believe we should be ready to consider ambitious options for the United Nations presence post-2016 that prioritize Haitian ownership.

The future of Haiti is in the hands of the national authorities. Only they can build on MINUSTAH's efforts and consolidate the gains of the past few years. As the Council begins to consider how best to support the Haitian authorities after the end of the consolidation plan, now is the time for them to assume the responsibilities conferred on them by Haitian people. The Government cannot rely on MINUSTAH to be in Haiti forever, and cannot shirk their obligations in the hope that the international community will fill the gap.

Lastly, we echo the Secretary-General's view that it has become imperative for the national authorities to assume greater responsibility in establishing the rule of law and in preparations for the next elections. Doing so will provide the political stability necessary for economic investment, and we urge the Haitian authorities to fulfil those responsibilities to safeguard Haiti's future.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for her comprehensive briefing.

Over the past several decades, the international community has exerted great efforts to provide assistance to Haiti and support it in overcoming the humanitarian, political and security challenges facing it. The international presence in Haiti has involved great sacrifices on the part of the countries that have participated in peacekeeping in Haiti, as well as those that have contributed substantially to relief efforts and efforts to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of the Haitian people, which on many occasions has resulted from sudden natural catastrophes.

Today, we are pleased to see that those international efforts have resulted in new and recent progress in the main aspects of life in Haiti. The country is now relative stable in terms of security and a there has been a noticeable improvement in the performance of the national police. There has also been progress on the humanitarian front and economic indicators have improved. The international community must continue its support for Haiti on its path towards stability. However, the primary responsibility for maintaining the gains that have already been achieved and accelerating their achievement falls to the Government of Haiti and its political leaders.

Foremost among those responsibilities is the need to improve the overall political climate and address popular tensions, which are primarily a result of the continued delays in holding local, municipal and partial senate elections. In that context, Jordan welcomes the launch of the national dialogue process and its focus on the most urgent issues in Haiti's political life. We call on all principal stakeholders to cooperate and to be involved in that dialogue. Jordan calls upon the Government of Haiti to continue the preparations for the holding of free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections without delay, given the importance of that democratic task and of easing tensions throughout the country. In that context, we look forward to having the United Nations provide the necessary support for the forthcoming electoral process.

The Government of Haiti must also deal seriously with social and economic grievances and the gaps in basic services, which lead to escalating popular frustrations and thus threaten the entire political process. It is important to continue providing assistance to Haiti to achieve progress in other important areas, in particular the rule of law and the development of the judicial and security sectors. It is also important to promote and enhance the international response to urgent humanitarian needs in Haiti, including severe shortages in foodstuffs and the need to combat cholera.

I would like to address the following points concerning the future presence of the United Nations in Haiti.

First, the reduction of the military component by 15 per cent during the reporting period is cause for concern for us, because this is a very delicate stage, in the light of the upcoming elections. By the end of June, the total number of troops that will have been withdrawn is 1,249 infantrymen and engineers. Also, there will not be a maritime capacity to transport a rapid intervention force, should the need arise, to support local and international police in areas outside Port-au-Prince.

Secondly, we emphasize the need to launch a comprehensive planning process for the post-2016

United Nations presence in Haiti. We look forward to identifying the most suitable format for the United Nations presence to enable it to provide assistance to the Government and people of Haiti following that date, in particular support for the development of the Haitian National Police and consolidation of the gains made in political stability, the ongoing promotion of the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

The five options proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2014/162) for the achievement of such tasks were discussed very generally and not in sufficient detail to enable us to identify all the relevant facts. They therefore require a comprehensive strategic assessment by the United Nations system. We hope that the next report of the Secretary-General will include further details on the options and will present an in-depth assessment of the conditions on the ground and their impact on each option, as well as recommendations for the most suitable option.

Thirdly, any fundamental change in the current United Nations presence in Haiti must be made only following the full implementation of the main mandate and verification of the achievement of its original and primary objective, namely, to help the people of Haiti to build a stable, secure and politically active State, Government institutions and a system that promotes the rule of law and protects human rights.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that at the end of the month the last Jordanian troops participating in MINUSTAH will return home after broad participation in Haiti for an entire decade, during which time 14 Jordanian personnel gave their lives. We would like to emphasize that Jordan stands ready to continue to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security wherever there is or will be an international presence in future.

Mrs. Kazragienė (Lithuania): I would like to thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her briefing and for her efforts. I also thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2014/162). We reaffirm our continuing support for the Mission.

Lithuania associates itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

We are pleased with the advancement of the political process in Haiti. We commend the decision to conduct local and national elections no later than 26 October and presidential elections in 2015. The elections should be inclusive and transparent. The United Nations presence in Haiti should be ready to provide its support to the electoral processes. The consolidation of democracy and institutions remains an important pillar of the United Nations support to Haiti. We welcome President Martelly's call for national unity and dialogue and a more collaborative relationship between Parliament and the executive branch, as demonstrated in the inter-Haitian dialogue that was launched in January.

We commend the progress made during the reporting period in implementing the conditions-based consolidation plan of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The plan has shown tangible results in meeting the professionalization target of the Haitian National Police as the national authorities assume greater responsibility in establishing the rule of law. Local authorities should assume even greater ownership of security and safety in Haiti. An effective National Police is essential to the long-term peace and security solutions for the country. The misconduct and human rights violations of police officers should therefore be immediately addressed. Further progress is needed to improve pre-trial detention conditions so as to resolve cases of illegal detention. The rule of law is absolutely critical to good governance and stability.

As stated in the Secretary-General's report, we note with satisfaction that Haiti's commitment to international cooperation, in particular on human rights issues, has strengthened, We commend Haitian efforts to enhance gender equality and to set the conditions for greater opportunities for women. We note, for example, that gender considerations have been taken into account in the recruitment of new student magistrates. However, gender-based violence and increased violence against women in Haiti remain deeply troubling. That is a security concern for the nation, whose women are an intrinsic part of the process towards reconstructing Haiti. In that regard, Lithuania recalls resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), which reaffirm the important role of women in peacekeeping. We call for the incorporation of gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts, including within MINUSTAH.

We remain concerned about the cholera situation in Haiti. There were fewer cholera cases during the reporting period, with the Pan-American Health Organization forecasting 45,000 infections in 2014, down from nearly 700,000 cases from October 2010 to 31 January 2013. At the same time, the number

of cholera cases in Haiti is the highest in the world. Additional efforts should be taken in line with the United Nations system's commitment to supporting the 10-year National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti 2013-2022.

We are pleased that the MINUSTAH presence is continuously adjusted in line with the progress achieved in the country. With regard to the future of MINUSTAH, we are analysing the five options put forward by the Secretary-General for the new United Nations configuration following the completion of the consolidation process in 2016. We look forward to the results of the planned full-scale United Nations-wide strategic assessment in order to form our informed position. At this stage, we are of the view that any decision should reflect the balance between the scope of the mandates of all peacekeeping missions and the resources allocated to them. We note that MINUSTAH has progressively disengaged from operational support activities and that further progress is needed in the areas of the rule of law, such as justice and accountability. At the same time, we underline the importance of consolidating the achievements in Haiti and of ensuring their sustainability by both the Government of Haiti and the United Nations community.

In conclusion, Lithuania wishes once again to express its gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the MINUSTAH troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as the United Nations country office in Haiti. We remain committed to continuing our support to the Haitian Government in its efforts to promote a national dialogue, peace and security and to build a stable future for its people.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ambassador Sandra Honoré, for her briefing on the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2014/162). I would also like to recognize her work, her efforts and the results she is achieving as she contributes to strengthening dialogue and, through dialogue, Haiti's institutions.

I would like to welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of Haiti and his active delegation. We would also like to acknowledge the work of Lieutenant General Pujol as the head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and welcome Lieutenant General José Luiz Jaborandy. We would also like to thank General Guerrero for his performance as Deputy Force Commander for the Mission over the recent years.

On 14 March, we saw the conclusion of a historic agreement in Haiti that could have a significant impact on the institutional stability of Haiti and the strengthening of democracy. It was an agreement that was reached between Haitian men and women and coordinated by the women and men of Haiti. We welcome the expression of political will for the holding of legislative, municipal and local elections in 2014. We trust that MINUSTAH will provide the necessary support for the elections to be held this year, and that the holding of those elections will take place in a context of safety and security and be free, fair and transparent.

We also note the progress of recent months in the area of human rights. In that regard, we wish to underscore the decision of the Port-au-Prince Court of Appeal ordering investigations into charges of crimes against humanity committed during Duvalier's presidency. We understand that this is an important step forward on the path towards justice, truth and reparation for the victims. We are also encouraged by the international accreditation on 4 December 2013 of the Haitian Office of the Ombudsperson as a national human rights institution by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as the coming into force of the interministerial commission on human rights.

At the same time, we understand that Haiti continues to face major challenges in that area. In particular, we are concerned by the situation in the area of sexual violence, violence against women and gender-based violence, and the response of the judiciary and the police to those cases. It is a fundamental issue in the context of the training of the Haitian National Police, among other institutions. We hope that the international community will continue to support Haiti in building the necessary capacity to ensure the appropriate investigation of all cases and the necessary assistance and follow-up for the victims.

We also wish to underscore that this is not a new situation. Sexual violence, gender-based violence and violence against women are not new or exclusive to Haiti, but they also exist in Haiti. It is therefore a shared challenge to train the people who are in or will become part of the police force, as well as those in the justice system and the prison system. All public institutions must maintain a comprehensive and holistic view

that incorporates a focus on human rights and gender equality. To that end, the democratic stabilization and sustainable human development must prioritize the economic, social, cultural and political independence of women and youth — an institutional cultural change that is needed in order to eradicate all forms of violence, not only in Haiti, but in Haiti as well.

I would also like to underscore the progress made on the humanitarian front as 90 per cent of the population displaced by the earthquake of 2010 had left the camps by late 2013 as a result of the return and relocation programmes. Despite that, although we recognize that the incidence of cholera has been reduced in the past year, we are concerned that Haiti has the highest number of cholera cases in the world. We call on the United Nations and the international community to continue supporting the Government of Haiti in its fight against the epidemic.

The Secretary-General's report recognizes that MINUSTAH has continued to assist the Haitian Government in ensuring a secure and stable environment, in addition to enabling the delivery of humanitarian assistance and preparing for disaster response, supporting the Haitian National Police and conducting the tasks that the Council has entrusted it with. The Secretary-General also highlights that work has continued to be done with the Government of Haiti to advance progress towards the four jointly agreed stabilization benchmarks outlined in the Mission's conditions-based consolidation plan.

We are therefore grateful to the Secretary-General for his presentation of a series of options for the United Nations presence in Haiti as elements for the discussion on the future of the Mission, depending on conditions on the ground. We understand that it is important to consolidate the progress made in terms of security and stability and to avoid jeopardizing those achievements with hasty decisions that might be based solely on budgetary considerations. In our region of Latin America and the Caribbean, we know that when the possibility of progress is considered from the viewpoint of adjustments, we do not need to make adjustments; rather, we need to consolidate and continue to make progress in strengthening the institutions and the political and security context in Haiti.

In conclusion, we are convinced that the future presence of the United Nations in Haiti must be based on a detailed assessment of the Mission's capacity and should be carefully planned after we have analysed the impact on the ground of any potential decision. We understand that any future debate on the Mission should enjoy the full participation of the Government, as it is essential to take into account the position of any country in which the United Nations is carrying out its activities.

With regard to popular demonstrations, we are seeing those throughout the world — in developed countries, in emerging countries, in countries in crisis, and in countries with stable institutions. These demonstrations are calling for economic and social rights and the right to education, so they do not have a special significance in Haiti. But what should be taken into account in Haiti is that legitimate demonstrations in which citizens call for the exercise of their rights must take place in a safe environment and settled democratically, and that the institutions of the rule of law must be respected.

When I was a national senator in 2005, after the Security Council adopted resolution 1542 (2004) establishing MINUSTAH, I accompanied our first troop contingent to Port-au-Prince and Gonaïves. Clearly, progress has been made by the people of Haiti and MINUSTAH, and it should be recognized. It was a major challenge for the region. A peace force went to work in cooperation and solidarity with the people of Haiti. It was a group formed in solidarity by the peoples of the region. I believe that is one of the lessons learned. Not everything has been resolved. The strategy of the Mission was not to remain there forever, however. The shared plan was to go to help to stabilize the country and gradually withdraw, but also not prematurely.

The earthquake and the health problems have without a doubt created difficulties for the Mission. However, we Latin Americans and Caribbeans share with the Haitian people two major passions: soccer and democracy. Haiti was the first democracy in Latin America. With that passion for football and for democracy, I am sure that the United Nations and the Council will, when the time is right, neither remain forever nor withdraw too early but do so gradually, thereby showing that it is possible for a United Nations mission, working with the people and the Government of the country in question, to achieve its goals: democracy, human rights, security and peace — if it also achieves equality, all the better.

Ms. King (Australia): We thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her briefing. We also welcome the Permanent Representative of Haiti

to the Council. We recently had an opportunity to engage directly with personnel of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) on the ground in the country and to see first-hand the work being done by the Mission. We recognize their unwavering commitment to the stability and reconstruction of the country.

Of the four stabilization benchmarks of MINUSTAH's consolidation plan, we would like to welcome in particular the progress that is being made in strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police, which is increasingly visible and proactive, resulting in a decrease of all major crime indices over the past year. While the Haitian National Police is on track to meet its target of 15,000 officers by 2016, we would encourage greater efforts to recruit female cadets. We look forward to the continued implementation of community-orientated policing strategies and strengthened resourcing and reform to support a professional and autonomous force.

We commend the establishment of a sexual and gender-based violence specialized team by the United Nations police, with the assistance of the Governments of Norway and Canada, which is working with the Haitian National Police to support investigations and build capacity to address those very serious crimes.

Despite these improvements, progress on the rule of law is lagging behind, which could jeopardize progress in other areas. The Government of Haiti must remain committed to strengthening the rule of law and promoting the independence of the judiciary. We remain concerned about prison overcrowding and prolonged pre-trial detention periods. The fact that many of those arrested face years of incarceration before their cases are heard is unacceptable. We urge MINUSTAH to redouble its efforts in working with the Government of Haiti to implement effective strategies to address the management of pre-trial detention and prison sentences, to increase investigative expertise and apply legislative reform through the adoption of draft criminal and criminal procedure codes.

With regard to other human rights issues, we acknowledge the positive and constructive steps that the Government of Haiti has taken recently, including its ratification of some important international human rights instruments. Notably, in December, the Haitian Office of the Ombudsperson was internationally accredited as a national human rights institution and the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Human Rights became operational during the period. Those are important developments.

While there has been some improvement in the humanitarian situation, the people of Haiti continue to face numerous challenges. Continued food insecurity and increases in child malnutrition are of great concern, which are exacerbated by the ongoing drought in the north-west of the country. We commend the efforts of the World Food Programme, which has begun to distribute food to those affected.

It remains a matter of great concern that long-overdue local, municipal and partial senatorial elections have not been held. Since the Council last discussed Haiti (see S/PV.7040), some much-needed steps towards holding long-overdue elections have been taken. The enacting of the Electoral Act and Political Parties Act are both very welcome. The recent national dialogue process demonstrated the commitment and determination of political leaders, and we welcome the signing of the El Rancho agreement, which should pave the way for planning of elections later this year. While such breakthroughs are encouraging, it is essential that all political leaders continue to work towards consensus on holding elections in 2014, and for MINUSTAH to continue to provide electoral assistance and logistical support for those elections.

We welcome the options presented by the Secretary-General for the United Nations future engagement in Haiti post-2016. The considerable progress made in the stabilization of Haiti since MINUSTAH's initial deployment, in 2004, leads us to consider that it is time for the Council to give MINUSTAH's transition some thoughtful consideration. We remain open to an accelerated transition to a new United Nations configuration in Haiti, while cautioning that it needs to be carefully calibrated to the situation on the ground.

Haiti remains fragile in many areas, and we must be sure to persevere and sustain the gains that have been made. We look forward to receiving the strategic assessment foreshadowed in the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/162) and recommendations on the most appropriate option for the United Nations' future engagement in Haiti.

Ms. Paik Ji-ah (Republic of Korea): I would like to thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her briefing. During last week's discussion on post-conflict peacebuilding (see S/PV.7143), we deliberated on some

core elements that also apply to today's debate. Today I would like to make three points, focusing on mutual responsibility among all parties concerned. This factor will be all the more important in consolidating the achievements made to date and expediting the remaining process.

First, with regard to the political process, the recent agreement signed by all political stakeholders to hold combined elections this year is encouraging. The growing impatience among the population must be addressed without further delay. The political leadership in Haiti should step up preparations for the long-delayed elections while providing a level playing field for all participants. Addressing the socioeconomic grievances of citizens should be a top priority for the Haitian Government. In that regard, we commend the supporting role played by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and international partners.

Secondly, with regard to institution-building, we would like to stress that the establishment of national institutions should be accompanied by strong political will, otherwise their legitimacy and effectiveness, which constitute a solid basis for national unity and the credibility of authorities, cannot be ensured. Political consensus on that aspect is another indispensable ingredient for the success of the upcoming elections. In that context, we welcome the continued professionalization of the Haitian National Police and hope that that impetus can spread to other equally important institutions ensuring the rule of law in Haitian society. MINUSTAH, the United Nations Development Programme and other partners need to continuously seek greater synergy to assist the Haitian Government in its capacity-building efforts through effective coordination.

Lastly, on the reconfiguration of MINUSTAH, we appreciate the Secretary-General's forward-looking approach to reconfiguring MINUSTAH beyond 2016. The five options presented in the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/162) provide a good basis for the Security Council possible alternatives given the evolving situation. We support the Secretary-General regularly reviewing and reporting on his strategic assessment to the Council as the Council seeks the most appropriate course of action in the years ahead.

We hope that the Haitian people and their leadership will take all of those challenges more proactively, in close cooperation with international partners. The Republic of Korea extends its full support to Special Representative Honoré and MINUSTAH in assisting Haiti's stabilization and capacity-building in this consolidation process.

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda): I thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), for her briefing on the current developments in the country. I appreciate in particular her intensive engagement with the political decision-makers in Haiti, advocating for the continuity of democratic institutions, national dialogue, a consensual legislative agenda and progress towards the holding of free and fair elections.

Rwanda would like to congratulate the leadership and the people of Haiti for their incredible resilience and for the spirit they have exhibited in the search for peace, stability, security and development, in particular since the 2010 earthquake. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/162), Haiti has recorded remarkable progress in almost all areas — including in the political, security, humanitarian spheres and in the rule of law — despite the challenges that Haiti and its people continue to face. We are also encouraged by the Government's commitment to fostering a greater alignment of international assistance with national priorities, increased transparency and strengthened mutual accountability. Those efforts have contributed to the Haitian economy's fast recovery.

Regarding the political situation, Rwanda congratulates the Haitian Parliament and President Michel Martelly on the adoption and promulgation on 10 December of an electoral law that has significantly de-escalated political tensions. We particularly commend Haiti's political actors, civil society and the Conférence Episcopale de Haïti for launching an inter-Haitian dialogue focusing o the three areas of concern: democratic governance, elections and amending the Constitution. We encourage all political actors in Haiti to consider this as a historic opportunity for building their State that they must commit to making work, however difficult that may be. The international community should continue to help Haiti as it prepares for the forthcoming elections.

We are encouraged by the improved security situation in the country throughout the reporting period, as indicated by the crime statistics collected by

the National Police and MINUSTAH. The year 2013 saw a stable marginal downward trend in major crimes compared to the previous year. However, it is worrying that cases of rape continued to increase. We call on the Government, with MINUSTAH's support, to put in place strategies to ensure the protection of women and girls and reverse this trend. That said, we commend the National Police for its performance, which, with the support of MINUSTAH, has significantly improved the security situation in the country.

Regarding promotion of the rule of law, we note that the National Police is increasingly proactive and visible. Its work has resulted in the dismantling of several criminal gangs. The Secretary-General's report indicates, however, that the vast majority of reported rapes are never properly adjudicated, due to weaknesses in the courts, prosecution offices and police stations, but we have also taken note of the initiatives being taken to address the issue, including through capacity-building for judicial officers and putting proper structures in place within the police, with the support of MINUSTAH and the United Nations Development Programme.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, although there are still more than 140,000 Haitians displaced by the 2010 earthquake, it is encouraging to hear that by the end of last year 90 per cent of the population displaced by the earthquake had left the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. We commend the collaboration of the Government, the United Nations and non-governmental partners in that effort. We believe that with the support of international partners, all the survivors of the earthquake will soon be resettled. We also welcome the fact that the overall incidence of cholera has been halved since the disease first broke out in late 2010, and that severe food insecurity was brought down from 1.5 million people affected in early 2013 to 600,000 by the end of the year.

We welcome the continued United Nations efforts to eliminate the cholera epidemic, and call on all stakeholders to continue to mobilize the necessary resources and assist in the efforts to treat and eliminate cholera in Haiti. In that regard, we note that the Haitian humanitarian action plan for 2014 identifies a need for $169 million — intended to provide basic services for the remaining IDPs living in camps, and to address critical needs related to the cholera epidemic, food insecurity, nutrition, protection and disaster preparedness — of which only $6 million have been received. We call particularly on the Government and all partners to ensure reduction of the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged under five, which continues to affect more than 500,000 children.

Concerning MINUSTAH's status, we take note of the five options presented by the Secretary-General for the Mission's reconfiguration after 2016. We believe that its reconfiguration should be based on the dynamics on the ground, in line with the security and political conditions in the country. In that regard, Rwanda welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to undertake a full-scale strategic assessment, aimed at providing an updated and in-depth evaluation of conditions on the ground, on the recommendations of which the Security Council should base its decision about options for the drawdown.

To conclude, I would like to say that Rwanda will continue to support the Government of Haiti in its reconstruction period, and, as a police-contributing country to MINUSTAH, we remain committed and stand ready to assist the Government in professionalizing its police forces.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing, and encourage her to continue to contribute to the process of Haiti's restoration through her leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We also thank the Luxembourg presidency, which has convened us to discuss the question concerning Haiti, a topic of interest for Latin America and the Caribbean, as has been reflected in the Organization of American States and in successive summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums.

My delegation associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Uruguay on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

Chile's commitment to and solidarity with the people and authorities of Haiti, on both a bilateral and multilateral level, is long-standing. Exactly 10 years ago, when, as we do today, we held a seat as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, we supported and participated in the deployment of a multinational interim force in Haiti. That same year, we strongly supported the creation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, aimed at supporting the political process and promoting and protecting human

rights. Since then, Chile has contributed more than 11,000 men and women to its contingent there. Chile's commitment to Haiti has also been reflected in the leadership of MINUSTAH, in which two of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General have been Chilean.

MINUSTAH's presence and multidimensional nature have been shown to have made a positive contribution to achieving a relatively stable and secure, if fragile, environment in Haiti over the years. In particular, its presence has enabled the country to deal with the enormous challenges of the 2010 earthquake and its continuing vulnerability to natural disasters.

Today, improving the political environment in Haiti is a priority, and in that regard we commend the Special Representative's efforts to facilitate a climate of dialogue among all national stakeholders so as to strengthen democratic institutions and address pending processes. Special emphasis should be given to the electoral arena. We share the Secretary-General's findings regarding the importance of holding elections in 2014 as a critical component in the continuity of democratic institutions. In that regard, the enactment of a new electoral law and the start of a national dialogue process are positive developments, and we urge Haitian political actors to participate in the dialogue in a constructive spirit and a democratic approach. However, there are areas that need special attention, which is why we call on the authorities to make decisive efforts to strengthen the rule of law, including in the judicial and human-rights sectors.

We also urge MINUSTAH to continue its efforts to include civil society in the political dialogue.

My delegation acknowledges the achievements in the humanitarian field, in particular the permanent relocation of over 90 per cent of internally displaced persons. The efforts of the Haitian authorities, together with the United Nations and non-governmental partners, to respond to the challenge led to a positive synergy that should be replicated in other areas. We must recall that Haiti represents a clear example of what the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has called a forgotten humanitarian crisis; my country therefore urges the major donors to continue to finance the humanitarian appeals.

MINUSTAH's consolidation plan should be implemented on the basis of ongoing assessments of needs on the ground. It is also important that future efforts to strengthen Haiti's institutional capacity be based on the principle of national ownership in order to enable the Haitian people to gradually assume the various responsibilities. It is essential that the plan be supported by strengthening capacities of the Haitian National Police within a democratic framework of respect for human rights.

My delegation welcomes the achievements of the Haitian National Police strategic development plan for 2012-2016, especially those of 2013, including the promotion of over 1,000 police officers, allowing it to reach the goal of 15,000 police officers by 2016. We also highlight the graduation of female cadets among the group. That has been reflected by a decrease in the crime rate in sensitive urban areas and the disbanding of several criminal gangs. Focused prevention efforts carried out at the community level have been fundamental to that end. We share the concern of the Secretary-General that progress in police professionalization has taken place without similar progress in justice and accountability, thus affecting the establishment of the rule of law.

The United Nations presence in Haiti in support of the local authorities remains essential. In that respect, we note the options offered in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the United Nations presence after 2016. It is our belief that those options represent an initial basis of discussion. They are being carefully studied by Chile's Government authorities, which are also awaiting the strategic assessment to be provided by the Secretariat.

During her recent visit to Chile, Ms. Honoré was able to assess with Government authorities the importance we attach to and our vision for MINUSTAH. In recent years, the participation of new countries of Latin America and Caribbean in contributing police or troop contingents to MINUSTAH has been important in expressing the region's commitment to Haiti. In that respect, Chile also considers it important to increase the presence of Latin American and Caribbean officials among MINUSTAH's civilian component.

Since 1996, my country has maintained a consistent and firm position on the link between security and development in achieving peace. That is why we will continue to support quick-impact projects and programmes to reduce community violence. We consider it worth mentioning that the report covers the development of quick-impact projects to contain the

cholera epidemic and prevent water-borne diseases. That in particular is fully consistent with the United Nations two-year plan in support of the 10-year National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti, which is supported by my country. We also welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Pedro Medrano Rojas as Senior Coordinator for Cholera Response in Haiti.

We understand that the financing requirements for peacekeeping operations are growing worldwide in the face of scarce resources. Nevertheless, a balance must be struck within the United Nations in the allocation of resources in order not to jeopardize the progress made. Chile reiterates the need for the United Nations to continue to support the Haitian authorities through its funds and programmes and through MINUSTAH and its civilian component, in particular based on the integrated strategic framework for 2013-2016.

Finally, I wish to reiterate Chile's commitment to the Haitian people and authorities and to MINUSTAH. Chile will continue to support strengthening the rule of law, democracy and the development of Haiti's capacities, which will foster a political culture that is committed to the country's stability and the progress of the Haitian people.

Mr. Sarki (Nigeria): Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, has provided the Council with a very important and informative briefing on the situation in Haiti. My comments will focus on political developments, the security situation, humanitarian issues, and the drawdown and reconfiguration of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

On political developments, we are pleased to note that the tensions of the early part of the reporting period in Haiti were reduced by the promulgation of a new electoral law and the launch of a national dialogue. We commend the civil society groups and religious leaders involved in facilitating the dialogue. We also commend His Excellency Mr. Michel Martelly, President of Haiti, for accommodating various shades of opinion in the spirit of fostering genuine democracy in his country. That has contributed significantly to lessening political tensions. We urge the executive branch and Parliament to strengthen their cooperation in the interest of good governance and the supremacy of the law.

We note with appreciation the engagement of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré with political actors in Haiti and her advocacy for democracy, national dialogue and progress towards the holding of elections. We also note the support provided by MINUSTAH to the Government of Haiti in the registration of new voters, the distribution of national identity cards, and the training of police and electoral officers.

On security, we are pleased to note that the situation was relatively stable during the reporting period. In particular we note the downward trend in major crimes, such as homicide and kidnapping. We also welcome the expansion and improved performance of the Haitian National Police during the reporting period.

On the humanitarian front, we are pleased with the progress that Haiti has made so far. We take particular note of the fact that 90 per cent of those displaced by the earthquake of 2010 have left the camps. We commend the Government of Haiti, the United Nations and non-governmental partners for that significant achievement. We are also pleased to note the reduction of cholera infections by half since 2010 and of the number of people affected by severe food insecurity from 1.5 million in early 2013 to 600,000 by the end of the year. We sincerely hope that efforts will be made to reduce that number further — to zero, if possible.

Concerning MINUSTAH's consolidation and reconfiguration beyond 2016, we note the five options presented by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2014/162) as they pertain to the Mission's political and peacekeeping functions. We look forward to the full-scale United Nations-wide strategic assessment that will be carried out with a view to studying conditions on the ground as they relate to the five options. MINUSTAH has done a splendid job in Haiti. We commend the officers and men and women of the Mission for their courage, commitment and sense of duty and for enabling Haiti to be where it is today after its terrible misfortune.

We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, especially for her astute leadership of MINUSTAH. She has upheld the values and integrity of the United Nations in difficult and trying circumstances. In doing so, she has confirmed to us the soundness of the Secretary-General's judgement in appointing women to important positions in the United Nations system. Only last week, Ms. Karin Lundgren addressed the Council on the situation in Liberia (see S/PV.7145). Previously, Ms. Helen Clark addressed us

on the United Nations Development Programme (see S/PV.7143), and before that Ms. Mary Robinson on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region of Africa (see S/PV.7137). All of them demonstrate the importance of the appointment of women to key positions.

Finally, we would like to suggest that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General compare notes with the Peacebuilding Commission on best practices and lessons learned in various fields of operation in Africa, particularly in such areas as disaster reduction and resilience strategies and building quick-response strategies in order to mitigate disaster situations such as those faced in Haiti, and in developing quick-impact projects, such as with respect to women's empowerment, grass-roots participation in national dialogue and political processes, and civil society involvement in national development efforts.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Permanent Representative of Luxembourg.

I, too, should like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing and for her efforts in a crucial period for the country's future.

Luxembourg associates itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

We recognize the significant progress made in Haiti since the January 2010 earthquake. Nevertheless, like Ms. Honoré, we are also aware of the challenges that the country continues to face. While security conditions have remained relatively stable and the figures collected indicate a decline in serious crime, the intensification of demonstrations during the second half of 2013 attested to the growing discontent of the Haitian population, which faces socioeconomic problems and persistent institutional impasses. To respond to the demands of Haitian citizens, it is essential that the various elections, which have been postponed for more than two years, be finally held. In that regard, the Parliament's adoption of an electoral law, promulgated by President Martelly in 10 December last year, are positive developments.

It is now important to speed up preparation for elections. We welcome the national dialogue process initiated on 24 January between the executive branch, Parliament and the political parties under the auspices of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti. The signature of the agreement on 14 March in the framework of the inter-Haitian dialogue was an important step towards national consensus. That consensus is essential to strengthening democratic institutions through the holding of elections in 2014 and to establishing governance conducive to socioeconomic development for the benefit of all Haitians.

The general improvement of the humanitarian situation in recent months has been encouraging. However, the living conditions of the 146,000 displaced persons still living in camps following the January 2010 earthquake are deplorable, and the improved food security situation could be set back in the event of a future hurricane. We are particularly concerned about the plight of nearly 100,000 children under the age of five who suffer from malnutrition, including 20,000 who suffer from acute, severe malnutrition. Similarly, while the total number of people infected with cholera has been cut in half since the outbreak of epidemic at the end 2010, the mortality rate from cholera has risen. The international community must address those challenges.

For its part, Luxembourg remains committed to assisting Haiti in overcoming the challenges of socioeconomic development and reconstruction of the country.

Progress has also been achieved in the protection of human rights and the rule of law. In the report published on 7 February, the independent expert mandated by the Human Rights Council, Mr. Gustavo GallÔn, highlighted the deplorable conditions in the prisons and drew attention to the problem of prolonged pre-trial detention0 in Haiti. We encourage the Haitian authorities to redouble their efforts, with the support of MINUSTAH, to find solutions to those problems.

On a positive note, we welcome the decision of the Court of Appeals in Port-au-Prince validating the judicial proceedings against former President Jean-Claude Duvalier for crimes against humanity.

A professional police force is a key component of the rule of law. We commend the progress made in the capacity-building of the Haitian National Police. As the Special Representative noted, the staff currently consists of 11,228 police officers, including 950 women. In December 2013, 1,058 students, including 111 women, received their diplomas as police officers. The next announced graduating class is also quite

promising, so Haiti is well on its way to achieving the goal of 15,000 active police officers by 2016.

The progress that has been made towards the stabilization of the situation in Haiti since the initial deployment of MINUSTAH in 2004 has been considerable. Certainly, the presence of the United Nations is still necessary, also in view of the upcoming elections. I am thinking especially of the presidential elections scheduled for November 2015, but we should now begin preparations for the post-2016 period.

We thank the Secretary-General for providing five options for a post-2016 United Nations presence. In general, Luxembourg supports the goal of progressive assumption of MINUSTAH's authority by the Haitian Government, especially the Haitian National Police, in the maintenance of law and order and ensuring a stable environment. If conditions on the ground permit, we believe that an accelerated transition towards a new configuration of the United Nations presence in Haiti should be pursued.

We look forward with interest to the comprehensive strategic review that the Secretary-General will present to us in a future report so that the Security Council may make an informed decision, in close cooperation with the Haitian authorities, with regard to the future presence of the United Nations that will best suit the aspirations and needs of the Haitian people and to ensure the sustainable stability of the country.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Régis (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Haiti to thank the Secretary-General for his excellent report (S/2014/162), submitted to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 2119 (2013), extending to 15 October 2014 the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The Haitian Government has examined with great interest the content of that report, which provides clear, balanced and objective observations of the political and security situation in Haiti; the status of economic, humanitarian and recovery plans; and an update on the various aspects of MINUSTAH activities through the primary pillars of its 10-year-old mandate.

The Haitian Government also takes note of the various options for reconfiguring MINUSTAH, desired from all sides, that are being considered. On those issues, I would like to voice the position of the Haitian Government and, if necessary, provide some clarification and new information that will complete the data contained in the report and allow for an evaluation of recent developments in the situation in Haiti.

First of all, however, let me express the gratitude of the Haitian Government to all Member States that, through their generous contribution of human, financial, technical and material resources since 2004, have provided unwavering support to MINUSTAH, thereby accompanying the Haitian people in its march towards the establishment of the rule of law and a truly democratic society.

The Haitian Government welcomes the general observation made by the Secretary-General on the evolution of the situation in Haiti. Despite the problems, he writes, progress towards stabilizing the situation in Haiti since the first initial deployment of MINUSTAH, in 2004, has been considerable.

We have taken note of the remaining issues and certain concerns mentioned in the report, for example, the "slowness of the political process", the "tensions" between the Parliament and the executive branch and the "delays in holding elections". In that regard, I wish to emphasize that the call by the Secretary-General for elections in 2014 as being essential for the continuity of democratic institutions was heard and has had deep resonance among the country's political stakeholders in particular and in Haitian society in general.

A major turning point has just occurred on the political scene in Haiti. An important agreement, the El Rancho agreement, was signed on 14 March by the main stakeholders in Haitian political life as a culmination of the process of political dialogue launched two months ago by President Michel Joseph Martelly, under the auspices of the President of the Haitian Episcopal Conference, Cardinal Chibly Langlois.

The horizon has now become much clearer. From now on, the political obstacles that were holding back the elections have been removed. The agreement expressly provides for the establishment of a "Government of openness, capable of creating the conditions necessary to achieve free, fair and democratic elections". The already enacted electoral law should be subject to some agreed amendments. Other provisions of the agreement are aimed at governance, the separation of powers, judicial and institutional guarantees and the

settlement of all contentious issues, all of which were factors that led to the deadlock. The consensus that was reached should allow us to make up the time lost and hold elections in 2014 for the renewal of two thirds of the Senate, the entire House of Representatives, all municipalities and other local authorities.

The Head of State has made a solemn commitment: the Government will fully assume its responsibility with regard to the electoral process and the national institutions responsible for carrying it out.

MINUSTAH's support, indirect though it may have been, in the successful process of political dialogue, deserves special mention. The Government of Haiti can only welcome the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Mission should undertake "a more focused and strategic use of available assets in support of efforts by the national authorities" (*S/2014/162, para. 26*) with a view to holding the next election.

At a different level, the Government of the Republic of Haiti expressed its deep appreciation for the remarkable support that the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, such as Caribbean Community, have given to Haiti in connection with the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic of 23 September 2013 on the nationality of more than 200,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent. We reiterate our deepest gratitude. Haiti, like the international community, awaits the supplementary law promised by the Dominican Government that will ensure the rights of citizens who are at risk of finding themselves stateless.

With respect to security, the report of the Secretary-General indicates "relatively stable" security conditions, illustrated by a number of positive elements that I will now stress. There was a significant downward trend in the crime rate — the number of homicides in 2013 was 21 per cent lower than in 2012, thereby reversing the trend over the past five years in terms of crime — and the total number of kidnappings in 2013 was 53 per cent lower than in 2012. There is no doubt that the MINUSTAH forces' operational support for the Haitian National Police contributed to those results. The Secretary-General is also right to welcome the achievements in terms of the professionalization of the Haitian Police, which has been a priority area in the consolidation plan.

I am also pleased that the Secretary-General mentions in his report the progress made and the long series of measures taken by the Haitian Government in terms of improving human rights in the country. Besides the establishment of the Haitian Office of the Ombudsperson as a national human rights institution and the operationalization of the interministerial commission on human rights, the Government of Haiti signed, on 16 August 2013, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It has also acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and ratified The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Quite appropriately, the Haitian Government just completed, on 21 March — three days ago — here in New York, the signing of the Arms Trade Treaty, that major legal instrument first open for signature by States on 3 June 2013. In so doing, the Government remains deeply concerned about the proliferation and spread of conventional weapons and ammunition, having always wished for a treaty that regulates trade in weapons in order to improve the overall human security by reducing losses of life resulting from a strict control of shipments of arms and ammunition. The Haitian Government welcomed the conclusion of a legally binding treaty that takes into account human rights and international humanitarian law.

The foregoing are all measures that demonstrate the unequivocal commitment of the Haitian Government in the promotion of human rights and respect for the shared democratic values of freedom, political pluralism, the rule of law and a balance of power as the foundation of our democracy under construction.

In the same vein, the report of the Secretary-General notes the progress made on the humanitarian front, in particular the resettlement of the vast majority of people displaced by the 2010 earthquake, largely through return and resettlement programmes implemented by the Government, the United Nations, the Canadian Government and non-governmental partners. The decline in the total number of people suffering from severe food insecurity fell 1.5 million in early 2013 to 600,000 by the end of the year.

At the same time, despite the many constraints, gaps and structural handicaps in infrastructure, the Haitian economy has begun to recover after decades of stagnation, with 4.3 per cent growth for 2012-2013. In addition, despite the limited resources, sustained efforts

have been made by the Government in the social sphere, including programmes to reduce poverty and to combat hunger, violence against women, marginalization and exclusion.

Furthermore, the Government welcomes the fact that MINUSTAH, under the wise leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, has been actively involved in those efforts and continues to provide highly appreciated support in all areas covered by the Mission. That support is reflected not only in terms of security and stability, but also in areas as varied as technical and logistical support to the Government to launch various programmes; interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of the population; technical support to the Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and several other ministries and Government agencies; support for civil society and various local partners; and, finally, participation in various humanitarian, rehabilitation and development activities. We are encouraged by the United Nations efforts to contribute directly to the implementation of the 10-year National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti, as the cholera epidemic continues afflict the population.

Ten years after the creation of MINUSTAH, it is widely recognized that undeniable successes have been achieved in the priority areas assigned to the Mission. Those successes, however, do not obscure the magnitude of the tasks that remain or the challenges still facing Haiti. For example, the Secretary-General's report highlights, in its security assessment, that further progress is needed before the Haitian National Police is able to provide the same level of security as MINUSTAH. That is only one of the elements that illustrate the need for a redefinition of the objectives, nature and components of the Mission.

The time has thus come for a calm review of MINUSTAH's work over the past decade. As we approach the end of the mandate entrusted to the Mission by the Security Council, the time seems particularly ripe for the necessary examination and re-evaluation, of which the principles are already accepted. For its part, the Haitian Government is ready to participate in such an exercise on the basis of the preliminary elements for reflection that it has submitted to the Security Council and in the light of the five reconfiguration options presented by the Secretary-General in his report.

Any reconfiguration of the Mission should, in the opinion of the Government, take into account the requirements of the times, which are no longer those of 2004, and reflect the particular needs of Haiti at this stage in its development. As Haiti has reached the milestone of a democratic transition, it is important to identify its new priorities and the means necessary to sustainably consolidate the indivisible foundations of democracy, the rule of law, security and economic and social development. Haitian national institutions, of course, must fully shoulder their responsibilities and their role in that new configuration.

In that vein, the Government will carefully consider the proposals advanced and give its full support to the Security Council and the Secretariat with a view to consolidating the gains made over the past decade, pursuing a renewed and wider vision of the objectives and scope of MINUSTAH, and looking forward to the new momentum expected for 2016. I thank the Secretary-General for his report, which will certainly inspire and guide the work of the Security Council in the coming months, and I reiterate the determination of the Haitian Government to continue to work with the Council for the full realization of the mandate of MINUSTAH.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Jamaica.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Sandra Honoré, for her comprehensive briefing. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/162), together with Special Representative Honoré's briefing, clearly shows that although there has been significant progress at various levels, a number of formidable and fundamental challenges remain.

Jamaica notes with keen interest the political milestones that emanated from the inter-Haitian dialogue mediated by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti. We further note that that dialogue culminated in a groundbreaking preliminary consensus on the holding of combined elections in 2014 for two-thirds of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils. That accomplishment symbolizes a turning point in Haitian governance and signals what can best be described as a new direction in political practice in Haiti. We urge all stakeholders to capitalize on the momentum gained to date with a view to the holding of free and fair elections.

Jamaica recognizes that political stability and the solidifying of development gains are inextricably

linked to sustained citizen security. We note with some concern, however, that while the statistics reflect a downward trend in major crimes, including kidnapping, the figures associated with reported rapes have risen. We thank the Mission for its August 2013 study on the subject and, in that regard, encourage continued efforts to bolster the capacity of courts, prosecution offices and police stations to properly handle those types of cases.

It is unfortunate that the scourge of sexual and gender-based violence persists in Haiti. Jamaica takes note of and commends the uniquely tailored programme that serves to train police personnel in methods used to prevent and respond to such crimes. For Jamaica, the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse within the Mission is of paramount importance. Such cases unacceptably mar the image of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). What is more, they stain the international image of the United Nations and that of countless other personnel in the field who are dedicated to the cause of fostering and maintaining peace. Jamaica strongly supports the application of a zero-tolerance approach to such cases. In that connection, we laud efforts to launch thorough and timely investigations into all allegations of abuse and encourage the continuing and determined work to prevent future incidents.

Jamaica notes with satisfaction the significant growth in the size of the Haitian National Police, from 5,000 officers at the start of the Mission to the current force complement of 11,228 officers. We encourage MINUSTAH to continue building the capacity of the Haitian National Police as a high priority. That should include strong recruitment campaigns and unrelenting efforts to ensure that the goal of 15,000 officers in service by the end of the police development plan for 2012-2016 is attained. Special emphasis should also be placed on the recruitment of women and skilled personnel capable of contributing to the development of Haiti at the highest level.

MINUSTAH's community violence reduction programme is being increasingly recognized for its impact on public safety and community development. By supporting community-based labour intensive infrastructure and environmental projects, MINUSTAH has effectively provided a viable and innovative alternative for at-risk youth. With the tremendous success of that programme in mind, we welcome the 29 projects that were initiated for the 2013-2014 financial year.

We note the progress made in upholding the rule of law in Haiti, as exemplified in the Government's "5 E" policy programme. Jamaica therefore strongly supports the assistance provided by MINUSTAH to the Haitian institutions responsible for ensuring the rule of law. In particular, we note the work done in the area of pre-trial detention and that carried out through the legal aid offices, as well as the success encountered in the processing of more than 2,000 cases during the reporting period.

With regard to the Haitian economy, the Secretary-General's report notes an increase of 4.3 per cent in the economic growth rate. That accomplishment, coupled with the growing levels of innovation and industry across the country, speaks to the resilience and determination of the Haitian people in overcoming the many obstacles to social and economic development. While we share in the hope for and expectation of a more prosperous Haiti, we are mindful of existing constraints, including the poor infrastructure and unstable electricity supply, which, as the Secretary-General notes in his report, continue to hinder economic growth. It is clear that the persistence of those constraints will inevitably have a negative effect on Haiti's ability to continue along its positive path.

Jamaica continues to maintain its support for the four jointly agreed stabilization benchmarks outlined in the conditions-based consolidation plan. We welcome the updates on achievements and challenges provided by the Secretary-General and look forward to receiving additional information on how the United Nations can further continue to contribute to Haiti's stabilization and development.

At the same time, we support the efforts geared towards the responsible and carefully planned drawdown. We call for a post-2016 reconfiguration that is in keeping with the needs of the Haitian people. The five options outlined in the report all present their own challenges and advantages. We look forward with anticipation to further discussion on those and related matters.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Jamaica's support for the Government and people of Haiti. I wish to express the my country's sincere appreciation to those serving in MINUSTAH and applaud the commitment

that they have shown to improving the lives of the Haitian people.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. González de Linares Palou (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2014/162). Spain aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union, and wishes to add a number of observations in its national capacity.

Spain shares the Secretary-General's relatively positive evaluation of the political situation in Haiti. We welcome the progress in the inter-Haitian dialogue among the various political actors, namely, the executive and legislative branches and the political parties, fostered by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti. We call on all political actors to pursue and strengthen that path of dialogue in order to address the country's political agenda in a climate of consensus.

We believe that holding the upcoming elections is a fundamental step in Haiti's stabilization, the consolidation of its institutions and the promotion of democracy and the rule of law. We trust that the elections will take place this year.

Spain appreciates the efforts of the Club de Madrid's first high-level mission on political consultation/dialogue, funded by the European Union and led by the twice former President of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr. Cassam Uteem, and the Secretary-General of the Club, the Spanish Ambassador Mr. Carlos Westendorp. The mission's goal is the promotion of dialogue in discussing Haiti's stabilization and political reform.

With regard to security, we are pleased at the developments in 2013 as a result of MINUSTAH's remarkable work and the ongoing process of the institutional strengthening of the Haitian National Police. Spain believes that, in the area of security, there must be greater support for measures that foster reform in the judicial and corrections systems, in particular with regard to preventive detention. The results achieved in the security sector encourage us to support the work being undertaken in the training and increasing deployment of the national police force.

We support the current process of reflection on the MINUSTAH's future towards a progressive reduction in its personnel. That will allow it, in the medium term, to focus on assisting civilians, in particular in emergency situations. In any case, Spain understands that such reflection must go hand in hand with an effective strengthening of the capacities of the Haitian National Police in order to enable it to increasingly assume MINUSTAH's functions.

With regard to the judiciary/justice sector, we welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of ex-President Jean-Claude Duvalier as testament to strengthening and developing the rule of law in Haiti.

Turning to the humanitarian situation, Spain views with satisfaction the progress noted in the Secretary-General's report with regard to the reduced number of internal displacements. We support the United Nations in its efforts to eliminate cholera in the context of its two-year plan and in support of the Haitian national plan. As one of the country's main donors, Spain continues and reaffirms its commitment to Haiti's development through cooperation focused, in particular, on access to clean water, which is crucial to the eradication of cholera, education, rural development and the fight against malnutrition.

Finally, we would like to express our support and confidence in the high-level talks between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We believe that the high-level bilateral commission is the ideal forum for discussing the common agendas of both countries for their mutually beneficial development.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Ms. Rodríguez Pineda (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We welcome Ambassador Sandra Honoré and thank her for presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/162). We would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti for his valuable comments.

I have five brief points. First, the current situation in Haiti continues to be characterized by enormous challenges, and being able to overcome them will depend largely on the holding of the long-awaited local, municipal and legislative elections and the success with which they are carried out. We welcome the recent political agreement reached in Haiti to hold elections in October this year. We recognize the Haitian leadership for forging that consensus, which marks a step forward in the political culture of the country. Its implementation will now be important. We also commend the technical

and legislative preparations to make the elections viable, including the required budget, which is under way.

Secondly, I want to refer to the reform of the Haitian National Police, which is the main criterion for assessing the performance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We have indicated on several occasions that the professionalization of the police is not enough on its own. We are concerned about the slow progress in other areas, which, as the Secretary-General's report warns, could jeopardize some of the significant progress made so far. Progress in the judiciary and penal areas is also necessary for the consolidation of the rule of law, as well as being a key indicator in strengthening the quality of the police force.

Thirdly, we believe that the socioeconomic dimension cannot be ignored. The axis of the problems of instability in Haiti does not exclusively have military solutions. We must seek the root causes of the instability — poverty, unemployment and social inequality.

In the humanitarian context, we must recognize that, after long delays, today almost 90 per cent of the population displaced by the earthquake have returned to their neighbourhoods or have been relocated. There continues to be a pressing need to normalize the situation of people displaced by the disaster four years ago.

Fourthly, experience has shown that the United Nations must maintain an adequate presence in the country, through both MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. We therefore reiterate that our withdrawal from the country must be responsible and gradual to ensure that, when that time comes, the Mission will never have to return.

We note the five post-2016 configuration options outlined by the Secretary General. We believe that, at this time, current levels must be maintained and actions that could jeopardize the proper holding of elections must be avoided. Both the report of the Secretary-General and the recent meeting with the troop-contributing countries show the need for the continued operational support of MINUSTAH forces.

In that regard, we believe that this is just the beginning of the discussion and it would be premature to discuss the appropriateness, merits or suitability of the options presented. We are in the consolidation phase of the Mission, and it is only when that process comes to an end that we can begin the reconfiguration progress. We must act in a calculated manner and on the basis of the strategic assessment to be presented by Secretary-General at a later date and in close consultation with the Government of Haiti and the troop-contributing countries.

Finally, we congratulate the Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her tireless efforts leading the Mission. She has our full support and admiration. Haiti has a special place on the agenda of the United Nations. Now more than ever, the Organization's role is of unparalleled importance to ensure the continuity of an irreversible process of stabilization.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2014/162) and the Special Representative for her presentation. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti for his presentation today.

The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union shares the assessment of the Secretary-General in his report with regard to the relative improvement in the political situation in Haiti. During the recent visit of President Martelly to Brussels, the European Union expressed to him its satisfaction with the progress achieved in the context of the inter-Haitian dialogue, which has made it possible to reach significant compromises with regard to the electoral and institutional disputes. We are pleased to note that our calls and those of other partners for the continuation of that dialogue have been heard and that an agreement on the date of the upcoming elections has finally been reached by the parties concerned. The Government's commitment to cover one third of the costs for the organization of the upcoming elections is also an encouraging sign.

The consolidation of democracy and its institutions remains an important pillar in our cooperation with Haiti. With that in mind, the European Union and the Government of Haiti decided in December 2013 to launch a political dialogue, as provided for in article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. That framework will make it possible to support the political and economic reforms necessary for sustainable socioeconomic development in Haiti, but also to have a constructive exchange of views on subjects of common concern. The political dialogue is further complemented by a programme of support to the Haitian Parliament aimed at improving dialogue among political parties and a more efficient management of the legislative agenda. We also asked the Club de Madrid to carry out another high-level political advisory mission, which is already under way.

With regard to the humanitarian situation, the European Union first of all welcomes the progress mentioned by the Secretary-General, in particular the ongoing reduction in the number of displaced people still living in camps. However, we remain concerned about the precarious living conditions of those families, most of whom do not have access to basic services. The European Union would like to underscore once again its concern with regard to the cases of forced and sometimes violent evictions reported by several civil society organizations. The Haitian authorities must ensure that the rights of the persons concerned are respected and find humane and sustainable solutions to help them in their relocation.

The European Union also welcomes the efforts to find a coordinated response to the cholera epidemic in Haiti and welcomes the two-year plan of the United Nations, which supports the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti. I am pleased to confirm that the European Union will continue its humanitarian efforts in Haiti in 2014 with a programme in the amount of €18 million euros, which will include our continued support for the eradication of the epidemic.

Finally, with regard to the humanitarian situation, we would like to express our dismay at the number of Haitian children under the age of five that suffer from malnutrition. As stated in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report, approximately 100,000 children are affected, of whom 20,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition, which will have irreversible consequences for their growth. This is truly a national tragedy that should mobilize all the political forces in Haiti. We reiterate our request to the Haitian authorities and political forces to put issues related to combatting poverty and malnutrition at the top of the Government's agenda.

The European Union takes note of the proposals made in the report of the Secretary-General with regard to the future reconfiguration of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Determining the most appropriate option will require in-depth analysis of the security situation and progress on the four key benchmarks of stabilization.

The European Union supports the goal of a gradual and conditional handover from MINUSTAH to the Haitian Government. The pace of that transition will depend upon the political will and determination of the Haitian authorities to implement legislative and administrative reforms needed to carry out the tasks delegated at present to MINUSTAH. The European Union, through its development cooperation programmes, aimed at, among other things, important support for the reform of State administration, will continue to support the process of mission reconfiguration.

As we did in prior debates, we reiterate our concern at the limited progress in the field of judicial and prison reform. In our view, it is essential that the Haitian authorities undertake reform of the security sector as a whole, including the police, the border control regime and the judicial and prison systems. To that end, we are working in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme to support the capacity-building of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, for which a specific programme funded by the European Union has just been launched. Furthermore, we welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal confirming the judicial proceedings against former President Jean-Claude Duvalier for crimes against humanity.

The binational high-level dialogue begun between Haiti and the Dominican Republic represents an excellent opportunity to find consensual solutions on cross-border issues of common interest. We congratulate the two Governments for their constructive engagement. The European Union will continue to actively support that process through its participation as an observer in the dialogue and through its regional cooperation programmes.

In conclusion, the European Union would like to express its appreciation of the excellent cooperation between our delegation in Port-au-Prince and the Special

Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, and the United Nations country office in Haiti. We will remain engaged and continue our support to Haiti and MINUSTAH so as to strengthen the reform efforts under way.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, I wish to thank you, Madam President, for having convened this debate on the situation in Haiti. I recognize and thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for the detailed report she presented to the Security Council today (S/2014/162).

Colombia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Uruguay on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti recognizing the progress made in strengthening democracy in the country.

The enactment of the Electoral Act and the collaboration among the various parties and the Government of President Martelly with a view to holding legislative, municipal and local elections are encouraging signs. The elections represent a significant challenge that will require support and assistance from the international community, primarily through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

However, it is clear that Haiti still faces multiple challenges. That is why I take this opportunity to reiterate Colombia's continuous support to Ms. Honoré and the valuable work of MINUSTAH to ensure the lasting well-being of the Haitian people, to whom we South Americans owe a historic debt as they help us towards our own national independence.

Colombia participates in MINUSTAH. Our police are supporting the fight against the global drug problem, transnational organized crime, extortion and kidnapping. Since 2013, following calls from the Council to broaden the role of women in peacekeeping, our schools have trained Haitian women police officers in Colombia and, in the field of development cooperation, we support training in the areas of coffee production, food and nutritional security, the refurbishment of housing and basic sanitation, neighbourhood regeneration and support for technical training.

Security, stability, better living conditions for the Haitian people and strengthened democratic institutions must continue to be the focus of the international community's commitment to Haiti. It is clear that MINUSTAH cannot continue indefinitely, but we must be cautious when considering its gradual drawdown, because the achievements attained must not be put at risk.

Colombia calls for the responsible gradual drawdown of MINUSTAH, taking into account the points raised in the latest report of the Secretary-General, which notes that there are still important gaps when it comes to institutions and security. The upcoming legislative, municipal and local elections and the presidential elections of 2015 represent a challenge in the consolidation of democracy in Haiti requiring appropriate support and assistance from the international community, primarily through MINUSTAH.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

Mrs. Carrion (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Peru, the United States of America and my country, Uruguay.

I would like to commend you, Madam President, for having organized this debate to discuss the latest report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2014/162).

The Group of Friends welcomes the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, and thanks her for her comprehensive briefing and for her tireless work. We also welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of Haiti.

Strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions, establishing a political environment conducive to democratic stability and improving socioeconomic conditions are key elements for achieving broader and more sustainable stability and prosperity in Haiti. In that regard, the Group of Friends strongly encourages all political actors in Haiti to continue deepening their dialogue and cooperation with a view to strengthening democracy in their country, and reiterates the importance of the holding free and fair legislative, municipal and local elections this year as an essential and urgent step towards lasting stability, recovery and development in Haiti.

The Group welcomes the efforts devoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti to facilitate dialogue among all national actors with a view to strengthening Haitian democratic institutions.

The signing of the El Rancho agreement marks an important milestone in a Haitian-led process and represents the will of Haitian political stakeholders to move forward with the planning of elections. That momentum must not be lost. We encourage Haiti's political leaders to keep up that spirit of cooperation and act promptly to uphold the provisions of the agreement regarding the reform of the electoral law, the establishment of a transitional Electoral Council and the fixing of an electoral timetable.

The Group of Friends notes that, since the latest report by the Secretary-General, the overall security situation in Haiti has remained relatively stable, although it has been marked by an increase in civil unrest during the first part of the reporting period. That has allowed the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to implement the drawdown established in resolutions 2070 (2012) and 2119 (2013) without undermining the security and stability of Haiti. The Group of Friends takes note of the progress in the execution of MINUSTAH's 2013-2016 consolidation plan, aimed at allowing the Haitian authorities to assume full responsibility for their country's security as soon as conditions permit. The Group of Friends commends this calibrated approach and reiterates the importance of making decisions on future actions based on conditions on the ground.

The Group of Friends takes note of the five options presented in the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/162) as a basis for future discussions on how best to carry out the political and peacekeeping functions that remain crucial to Haiti's progress. The Group also welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a comprehensive strategic assessment with a view to making a recommendation to the Council, and underlines the importance of maintaining close cooperation with the Government of Haiti in that regard.

The Group of Friends reiterates the importance of the Government of Haiti's commitment to strengthening the rule of law and making further progress in the judiciary and security sectors. In that regard, the Group would like to emphasize the Haitian National Police's critical role in Haiti's security and stability and to stress the importance of completing its ongoing strengthening, professionalization and reform so that it can assume full responsibility for security in Haiti. In that context, the Group of Friends emphasizes the importance of building up the Haitian National Police's capacity outside Port-au-Prince, and ensuring its adherence to the highest standards of respect for human rights.

The Group of Friends of Haiti reiterates its commitment to the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, and in that regard expects all United Nations personnel to abide by the highest standards of conduct. The Group urges all actors involved to assume their responsibilities in order to prevent such cases, investigate allegations and hold those responsible accountable.

The Group welcomes the significant progress made during 2013 regarding the resettlement of persons displaced by the 2010 earthquake. However, we are also concerned about living conditions in the remaining camps, particularly for women and children, an example of the persistent humanitarian challenges that Haiti continues to face. The Group of Friends notes the ongoing work being done by the Government of Haiti, MINUSTAH and others to protect vulnerable groups and encourages all actors to pay as much attention as possible to preventing and reducing violent crime, particularly against women and children, including rape and other crimes of sexual violence.

The ongoing efforts to eliminate the cholera epidemic are a reminder of the importance of sustaining cooperation between the international community and the Government of Haiti in order to meet the needs of the Haitian people. In that regard, the Group welcomes the two-year plan developed by the United Nations and focused on short-term actions in support of the 10-year national plan for the elimination of cholera in Haiti, and takes note of the Secretary-General's appointment of a Senior Coordinator for Cholera Response in Haiti. Similarly, we acknowledge the efforts of the donor community and calls on them to fulfil the pledges they have made without delay.

The Group of Friends of Haiti believes that security, respect for human rights, rule of law and development are closely interlinked and mutually strengthen stability. We therefore underscore the need to systematically address unemployment, education and the delivery of basic social services, and to ensure the economic and political empowerment of women.

At the same time, the Group stresses that there can be no genuine stability or sustainable development in Haiti without strengthening democratic institutions and a credible democratic process. In that context, the Group emphasizes the importance of promoting the rule of law through the strengthening of Haitian institutions and further reaffirms the responsibility of MINUSTAH for supporting the Haitian State by promoting improved governance structures, the extension of State authority and the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with its mandate.

Finally, the Group of Friends of Haiti reaffirms its solidarity with and commitment to the people and Government of Haiti in their pursuit of stability, reconstruction, recovery, social and economic development and democratic consolidation. The Group of Friends recognizes the important role of MINUSTAH in ensuring stability and security in Haiti, and expresses its support for and recognition to the women and men of MINUSTAH for their dedication and tireless efforts to support recovery and stability in Haiti.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Patriota (Brazil): I thank you for convening this debate, Madam President. I would like to thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her detailed presentation. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis, for his statement.

The Secretary-General's most recent report (S/2014/162) invites us to discuss options for the United Nations presence in Haiti after 2016, and at the same time reminds us of ongoing challenges — persistent issues on the security, social and economic fronts, and the political divisions that have delayed the Haitian people's full enjoyment of democratic stability. In addition to those challenges, Haiti must confront a cholera epidemic with the highest number of cases in the world.

At the same time, it is fair to acknowledge that Haiti has come a long way on the path to stabilization. Progress on the humanitarian situation, in particular the relocation of displaced people, is encouraging, although forced evictions are a cause for concern. Recent positive economic prospects confirm our confidence in the potential for Haiti's development. On the political front, in particular, the recently signed El Rancho agreement presents a vital opportunity to break with old patterns and practices that run contrary to institutional progress and have continued to hold the country back. In that regard, I would like to recognize the key role of the mediators who are providing the necessary space and support for the inter-Haitian dialogue. We expect that the political dialogue will, in the short term, lead to the swift implementation of concrete commitments and allow for normalization of the country's democratic life with the holding of pending elections in 2014 and presidential elections in 2015.

That complex picture is a reminder of the integrated nature of the challenges Haiti faces in this advanced stage of the stabilization process. This remains a fundamental circumstance as we discuss the best strategy for consolidating the stabilization gains secured so far with the crucial contribution of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). In that context, I should like to convey Brazil's strong support for the work being done by Special Representative Sandra Honoré and her team.

On the security front, the Secretary-General's report informs us of the progress achieved by the Haitian National Police in implementing its development plan with the key support of MINUSTAH. That should not divert us from the importance of translating our support for strengthening the justice and security sectors into concrete benefits for the population and greater protection of basic human rights, including social and economic rights. To help establish that fundamental, rights-based connection between institutions and citizens, it is key that MINUSTAH continue to pursue a comprehensive approach to stability.

Brazil welcomes the deeper integration of community projects to reduce violence within the spectrum of the Mission's rule-of-law activities, as well as the efforts to tackle weaknesses in the judicial sector and the issue of prolonged pre-trial detentions. Stabilization tools such as quick-impact projects and the community projects to reduce violence become even more important as we move forward with the implementation of MINUSTAH's consolidation plan, with further reductions of its military component.

It is a positive development that the situation has remained stable in the departments vacated by MINUSTAH's troops. It indicates that a well-calibrated, responsible, progressive and situational approach is best suited to consolidating gains without compromising security. We believe such a careful, gradual and responsible approach should continue to prevail in our planning for a sustainable transition.

It is the security situation on the ground, its prevailing social and political dimensions and Haiti's capacity to assume increasing responsibilities that should continue to guide us — not self-imposed budgetary constraints or arbitrarily conceived time frames unrelated to Haiti's specific situation. The Council should not sacrifice hard-earned security and stability at the risk of paying a higher price in the medium term. Neither should it pursue the establishment of new and needed missions to the detriment of, and at the expense of, active ones that have not fully discharged themselves of their purpose.

As the Secretary-General himself points out, a comprehensive strategic assessment will be needed for an informed decision on the options presented in his report or any other alternatives deemed suitable. We hope that this exercise will improve the concrete situation on the ground, identify opportunities for the further transfer of responsibilities where they present themselves, and take into account the need to ensure that key objectives such as electoral processes and political national dialogue are met with adequate support. Close and effective coordination with the Government of Haiti will remain a decisive requirement in this context. I take note with encouragement of the final paragraphs of the statement made by the representative of Haiti in that regard.

It is clear, especially in the light of the security requirements for upcoming elections, that no abrupt interruption of the support provided by a peacekeeping presence is advisable. Brazil would favour options that maintain a military capability to support the Haitian National Police, as needed, under Chapter VII. We are also of the view that the present Latin American/Caribbean profile of the Mission should be fully preserved throughout its reconfiguration process.

The ultimate transition must be a Haitian one — a transition away from past instability and back to the original Haitian dream that inspired an entire region to seek independence as a way to ensure a dignified life for all. We stand firmly behind this objective in solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Alday González (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation welcomes the convening of this debate at a decisive moment for the future of the Government and people of Haiti and for the definition of the United Nations presence in the country. Ten years following the establishment of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and four after the devastating earthquake that had tragic humanitarian, political and economic consequences in Haiti, we now see important advances in security, stability, political dialogue and the rule of law. This progress could not have been achieved without the presence MINUSTAH and the support of the United Nations and other international organizations. It is clear that the strategy of addressing the challenges of security, development and human rights on parallel tracks, as has been pursued since 2004, has been decisive in the restoration of stability and reconstruction of Haiti.

The Government of Mexico welcomes the positive assessment of the political process offered in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2014/162), arising from the adoption of the electoral law and the beginning of direct dialogue between the executive branch, Parliament and the political parties. These agreements are essential to the ongoing creation of an enabling environment for the elections this year and presidential elections in 2015. A peaceful transition of power as a result of free elections, coupled with the institutional strengthening of the Haitian Government, would be important to consolidating democracy in the country. It is crucial to maintain the support Haiti will need in this period so as to bring to fruition the efforts being made by the Haitians and the international community.

My country has supported Haiti in strengthening and professionalizing its electoral institutions. At the request of the Electoral Council , the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute has provided technical assistance in various areas, and in the coming months will dispatch a mission to develop, jointly with the authorities of that country. a collaborative programme on electoral matters.

Although the Secretary-General reports significant progress on the humanitarian front over the past year, we are concerned about the persistence of the high number of cases of cholera; this crisis has already claimed the lives of 8,500 persons. Mexico hopes that the implementation of the humanitarian action plan for Haiti in 2014 and the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti, with the support of the United Nations system and other international partners, will help to address the needs related to the epidemic and to reduced rates of infection. We are convinced that these efforts should be part of a strategy that addresses poverty and development challenges simultaneously

and strengthens food security, nutrition and disaster preparedness. Mexico is commited to that task. We will continue to promote actions in the priority areas of development cooperation, established with the Haitian Government, in agriculture, education, socioeconomic development, the environment, health and democracy.

The distance covered in the past decade by Haiti and the international community reflects the progress made in the priority areas of stabilization, the MINUSTAH consolidation plan, and the professionalization of the Haitian National Police. As the Secretary-General notes, challenges remain to be addressed in order to ensure that the national authorities can progressively assume greater responsibility in establishing the rule of law and the preparation of the coming elections. It is essential that MINUSTAH enjoy the resources to address these challenges.

Mexico hopes that the MINUSTAH consolidation plan will lead to a successful transition process, with the ultimate departure of the Mission once it has met its objectives of maintaining stability and long-term development in Haiti. It is essential to sustain a gradual and planned approach to the reconfiguration of MINUSTAH in 2016, pursuant to resolution 2119 (2013). An abrupt, unplanned withdrawal of the Mission could generate a recurrence of the crisis and political instability of incalculable consequences.

On behalf of my delegation, I recognize the efforts of the men and women deployed in MINUSTAH, who, in cooperation with the Haitian Government, are working to lay the foundations for a prosperous and peaceful Haiti. The legacy of the MINUSTAH is tangible. The country today is not what it was between 2004 to 2010. Let us bring our common efforts to fruition and make Haiti another success story for the Council, for the Organization and particularly for the Haitian people.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) (*spoke in French*): I would like first to thank you, Madam President, and the delegation of Luxembourg for having organized this debate on Haiti. I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing on the situation in Haiti, and to assure her of Canada's continued support to her and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We acknowledge the ongoing efforts of all the MINUSTAH staff to strengthen stability in Haiti.

Although progress has been made since the Security Council last discussed Haiti in August (see S/PV.7024), more work is needed to ensure its sustainable development and stability. One example of this progress is the relocation of thousands of families living in displaced person's camps; 90 per cent of the population displaced by the 2010 earthquake have now moved out of these camps. We must continue to work until the remaining 10 per cent have homes. In January, Canada announced further support to help relocate another 53,000 internally-displaced persons over the next year.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada has shared a unique partnership with Haiti for decades. Since 2006, Canada has provided more than $1.4 billion in development and humanitarian assistance. These efforts have been designed to complement to and support the efforts and actions of our allies and of multilateral and regional bodies in Haiti. Canada has worked to make improvements in a number of areas including economic growth, food security, governance and — in line with Canada's Group of Eight Muskoka initiative — has placed a particular focus on maternal, newborn and child health.

Canada welcomes the fact that Haiti has made economic development, including trade and investment, a top priority. We welcome the Government's emphasis on modernizing the business environment so as to facilitate foreign investments, and we strongly encourage actions that can lead to further gains in transparent governance, economic development and sustainable job creation. A private sector creates employment and employment builds an economy. Transparency, accountability, economic competitiveness and diversification are all essential to Haiti's development and sustained revenue generation for the Government. We encourage continued action in improving the business environment, which can transform Haiti's economic potential into concrete outcomes for the Haitian people.

(*spoke in French*)

If Haiti is to succeed on the path of development in accordance with its own objectives and plans, accountable institutional and political stability are necessary. We note with concern that the long-overdue senatorial, municipal and local elections prescribed by the Constitution still have not taken place, despite the repeated calls of Haitian political actors and members

of the Security Council that they be held without delay. We are encouraged by recent announcements that these elections will take place this fall, but those words must now be turned into action and lead to voters casting their ballots at the polling stations.

The promulgation of the electoral law in December 2013 was an important step towards the holding of the elections. We commend Haiti's political actors for the consensual solutions they have reached through the recently concluded inter-Haitian dialogue. We also recognize and appreciate the efforts of MINUSTAH in providing electoral assistance and logistical support for those elections. We note the importance of strengthening the status and capacity of Haitian institutions to take on an increasing role in the future.

It is also important to continue to improve human rights protection in Haiti. Canada commends the Haitian Office of the Ombudsperson for becoming accredited as a national human rights institution in December 2013. That was an important step forward for Haitian-led efforts to protect and promote human rights in the country, and Canada is proud to have supported the Office over the past few years. We also welcome the submission of several reports on Haiti's implementation of its obligations under human rights conventions as important steps towards accountability in this domain.

There is still much more to be done, however, as generalized weaknesses in institutions of the justice sector remain a concern and undermine human rights protection. A large number of Haitians — up to 70 per cent of the prison population, according to some sources — face prolonged pre-trial detention in terrible conditions. It is time for this issue to be addressed. Continued international engagement and the ongoing institution-strengthening efforts of the Haitian authorities are crucial to improving the current situation in an effective and sustainable way.

(*spoke in English*)

In conclusion, Canada wishes to state that it continues to appreciate and support the important work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. For 10 years, MINUSTAH has worked to improve security conditions and contribute to lasting stability in Haiti, and it has made considerable progress. Canada notes MINUSTAH's forward planning on the post-2016 presence of the United Nations in Haiti. As we consider the possibilities for the future, it is important that such decisions be based on the situation on the ground, and in particular the capacity of the Haitian State to deliver security to its population. We should also avoid reduction scenarios that would jeopardize the results we have achieved to date.

We also commend the mission's efforts towards the reform and development the Haitian National Police, an organization that has demonstrated increasing capacity in recent months. We are extremely pleased that the first group of Haitian police commissioners has completed its training, and that the training of a second group is now under way. This is an important milestone and the result of considerable work by Haitian authorities to develop curriculum and recruit and train professors, among other activities. Canada is proud to have provided considerable support to these efforts, and we encourage the Haitian Government to ensure the sustainability of these achievements. We urge the Haitian Government to continue this work and to further build upon it by tackling weaknesses in the justice sector so that the rule of law can be delivered to all Haitian citizens. This is critical for Haiti's future and I can assure you, Madam President, that Canada will continue to support Haiti in that regard.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra Velásquez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I should like to welcome the initiative of the presidency of the Security Council to convene this debate on the situation in Haiti. I also warmly welcome the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré, and thank her for her presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Haiti (S/2014/162).

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Uruguay on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, especially its recognition of the important work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in ensuring the stabilization and security of Haiti, as well as in strengthening its democratic institutions and the rule of law. We believe that this work remains essential to providing the Haitian authorities with the security and support needed to facilitate the process of democratic consolidation in Haiti.

Peru is committed to achieving and consolidating security, stability, sustainable development and institutional strengthening in Haiti. My country has

therefore actively participated in MINUSTAH since 2004 with a military contingent of 372 troops, including female field staff, as well as military officers in the General Staff of the Mission.

Peru recognizes the significant progress made towards the holding of the long-delayed legislative, municipal and local by-elections. However, we are concerned that a new postponement thereof could generate a climate of political instability and a governance vacuum in Haiti. Therefore, recognizing the democratic vocation of the Haitian people , my delegation reiterates its call on all Haitian political forces to reach the agreements necessary to the timely holding of these elections, which will strengthen the functioning of key institutions of democratic governance Haiti.

As noted in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/162), the security situation in Haiti remains relatively stable thanks to the crucial work of MINUSTAH. However, there has been an increase in protests, mainly linked to political tension, socioeconomic problems and the lack of basic services. This should remind us that the United Nations system should provide cooperation in the three areas that have direct impact on the ongoing process of Haitian recovery and reconstruction: governance, security and sustainable development.

In reiterating our appreciation for the work of the military component of MINUSTAH to ensure stability and security in Haiti, we wish to express our satisfaction with the progress achieved in the implementation of the five-year development plan for 2012-2016 of the Haitian National Police, which will give that institution the capacity necessary to maintain public order and security throughout the country, as well as a firm institutional foundation for promoting the strengthening of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The progress made by MINUSTAH in Haiti's stabilization allows us to look to the future with optimism, because we believe that the time has come to for Haiti initiate a process of gradual transition towards a phased, gradual and orderly second stage of cooperation with the United Nations system. In this regard, we welcome the progress made in implementing the reconfiguration and consolidation plan for MINUSTAH, aimed at consolidating the achievements made to date and at laying the foundations for long-term development programmes .

Regarding the various options provided by the Secretary-General on the future of the Mission, my delegation believes that a future reduction of MINUSTAH personnel, or even a change in the nature of the Mission, should be determined only after a serious analysis of the situation on the ground. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a strategic assessment of the desirability of the various options set out in the report, and we hope that he will duly consider the parameters and indicators in the MINUSTAH reconfiguration and consolidation plan.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates that MINUSTAH's major achievements to date should not lead us to the false conclusion that the United Nations task in Haiti is finished, or even close to it. Experience has shown us the grave consequences in certain countries when the Organization has decided to withdraw its presence on the ground before it should have, which is why we call upon the entire international community to continue its ongoing support in Haiti.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yamakazi (Japan): I would like to express my appreciation to you, Madam President, for presiding over today's debate. I would also like to commend Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, for her invaluable and significant contribution to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). I thank her for her comprehensive briefing this morning. I also wish to pay tribute to the men and women of the MINUSTAH for the commitment and fortitude they have demonstrated under difficult circumstances.

I welcome the Secretary-General's report on MINUSTAH (S/2014/162), issued on 7 March. As the report points out, the adoption of the electoral law and the launching of an inter-Haitian dialogue process are encouraging signs that can lead to overcoming the recurrent political crises and defuse tensions. Various challenges persist but significant progress has been made in the stabilization and recovery process in Haiti. In that regard, the support provided by MINUSTAH, such as increasing the capacity of the Haitian National Police, building electoral capacity, strengthening the rule of law and supporting political dialogue, has been indispensable.

Japan, as a close friend of Haiti, has also been contributing to the recovery process in the country.

A total number of approximately 2,200 Japanese Self-Defense Force personnel served as part of the engineering unit that was dispatched until December 2012. Their activities contributed to clearing away rubble and debris, building facilities and transporting supplies in the aftermath of the earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010. Moreover, at the time of the withdrawal of its personnel, Japan donated engineering equipment to the Government of Haiti and prefabricated houses to MINUSTAH.

In addition to the Japan Self-Defense Force contribution, my country has disbursed more than $150 million since 2010 for the reconstruction of Haiti. Basic infrastructure in the country remains fragile. Therefore, Japan has focused its assistance on restoring and establishing basic social services in the fields of health, hygiene and education.

Recently, on 7 March, the Government of Japan agreed to provide approximately $6.8 million in assistance for a water supply facilities reconstruction project in Léogâne and approximately $7 million for a hospital reconstruction project in Jacmel. In addition, on 11 March, the Government of Japan signed a document with UNICEF to provide assistance totalling approximately $2.5 million for a cholera-prevention project in Haiti. Further, approximately $3 million for underprivileged farmers in Haiti has also been decided. Japan intends to continue to support the recovery in and cooperate with Haiti.

The Secretary-General's report raises an important issue about the future United Nations presence in Haiti. Japan welcomes the integrated planning process on the post-2016 United Nations configuration in the country that has been launched and the five broad possible options presented in the report on the future of MINUSTAH.

Mindful of the presidential elections scheduled for November 2015, while also taking into account the developments to date in Haiti, Japan was encouraged to learn that a reduction in MINUSTAH personnel — a withdrawal of 1,249 infantry and engineering personnel — is planned to take place by the end of June 2014. Through support to the recovery efforts in Haiti, Japan hopes that, in the near future, conditions on the ground will enable a progressive drawdown of the MINUSTAH operation and a handover of its functions to the Government of Haiti.

Two decades have passed since the first Japan-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) consultation was held in 1993. The year 2014 has been designated as the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year in order to enhance the relationship in diverse fields. The friendship built between Japan and Haiti is also a strong and solid one. Japan will never forget the solidarity shown by Haiti in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Through that friendship, I am confident that we can overcome the difficult challenges ahead of us and advance towards a brighter future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Ms. Honoré so that she may briefly respond to the observations that have been made.

Ms. Honoré: Once again, I take the opportunity to thank you, Madam President, for having placed today's debate on the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2014/162) on the Security Council's agenda.

I wish to thank you, Madam President, and the members of the Council for the comments and recommendations that have been made in the course of this morning's debate on our work and on the work of the Mission for stabilization in Haiti.

My gratitude is also extended to all the other Member States, including the Republic of Haiti, and the multilateral organizations that have proferred comments and suggestions, either on their own behalf or on behalf of regional groupings.

On behalf of the personnel of MINUSTAH — military, police and civilians, international and Haitian — as well as United Nations Volunteers, I thank participants today for their expressions of support for the work of the Mission as we strive to fully acquit ourselves of the Council mandate to ensure an environment of security and stabilization in Haiti. We are encouraged by the Council's continuing support of our efforts and its desire to ensure they redound to the full benefit of the children, women and men of Haiti.

In keeping with the Mission's consolidation plan, we continue to concentrate on the core areas of development of the Haitian National Police, the strengthening of the national capacity for electoral management, the rule of law and human rights, and key governance issues, including elections, the legislative agenda and institutional-strengthening.

MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team in Haiti draw inspiration from the remarks made today

and look forward to continuing our work and service in support of the Secretary-General's obligations to the Council as it continues deliberations on the contents of the report contained in document S/2014/162.

The Mission renews its deep appreciation for participting countries' and organizations' long-standing and continuing cooperation with the Government and people of Haiti. We have taken note of the specific comments on specific areas in which participants feel that we need to place renewed emphasis and look forward to continuing to serve them.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Honoré for her clarifications.

There are no further speakers inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7148

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7148th meeting
Wednesday, 26 March 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Lucas	(Luxembourg)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Final report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2014/192)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-27719 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Final report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2014/192)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Canada, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/192, which contains the final report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone.

I now give the floor to Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen.

Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen: Let me begin by thanking the Security Council for the opportunity to present the final report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), contained in document S/2014/192, dated 17 March 2014. As members of the Council know, the report before the Council takes stock of the overall implementation of the mandate of UNIPSIL since its establishment in 2008. It also presents an assessment of the remaining challenges facing Sierra Leone after UNIPSIL's drawdown by 31 March, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2097 (2013).

UNIPSIL is indeed in the final stages of its drawdown and, as the Council is aware, the Secretary-General marked the formal closure of the Mission on 5 March 2014 during his visit to Sierra Leone. As the Council is also aware, the country has made remarkable strides in post-conflict recovery, democratic transition and peace consolidation. Indeed, the general atmosphere of peace that now prevails is the culmination of more than 15 years of successive Security Council-mandated peace operations in the country. As the report indicates, the progress achieved is attributable first and foremost to the determination of the people and Government of Sierra Leone to break with the past and work towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous nation. It is also the result of a remarkable level of steady engagement by the United Nations and international partners, demonstrating that concerted international action can yield positive results.

Though Sierra Leone is continuing on the right path, it still faces a number of challenges linked to the root causes of the war that require sustained attention and support. Allow me to emphasize some of those key remaining challenges, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report. They are, first, pervasive poverty and unemployment, especially among young people; secondly, endemic corruption; thirdly, upholding the rule of law; and fourthly, the need for the authorities to broaden the political space. The ongoing constitutional review process and the implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity are important opportunities in that regard.

Addressing the remaining challenges will require the joint efforts of all Sierra Leoneans to work together and place the national interest above all other interests. During the Secretary-General's visit to Sierra Leone earlier this month, it was heartening to hear all the major political parties speaking with one voice in a joint statement in which they committed to work towards a peaceful future for Sierra Leone.

During its last year, UNIPSIL focused on its remaining mandate, as outlined in resolution 2097 (2013) and the transfer of residual tasks to the United Nations country team. In that regard, I am pleased to note that the United Nations will continue to provide support through the Peacebuilding Fund to constitutional review, security sector reform, promotion of human rights and conflict prevention. Just last week,

the Minister of Finance and I signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2015-2018, which will serve as the United Nations strategy in Sierra Leone in support of the Government's Agenda for Prosperity.

I believe that national authorities and institutions are ready and willing to assume responsibility for their country's peacebuilding and development agenda. Nevertheless, the continued assistance of Sierra Leone's international partners will remain critical. I urge Sierra Leone's development partners to remain engaged and to consolidate the many investments made over the years, including through support for the Agenda for Prosperity and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Increasing State revenue will also be crucial. I commend President Koroma for his zero-tolerance approach to corruption; it is an important step towards improving the business climate and attracting investors with strong, responsible business practices.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General Djinnit and I have worked closely together over the past month regarding the role of the United Nations Office for West Africa in Sierra Leone after UNIPSIL's drawdown, including through the good offices of the Secretary-General, as needed. I am pleased to hear that the Peacebuilding Commission, with which I will be meeting later today, intends to continue to monitor Sierra Leone with a view towards engaging on an as-needed basis. I would also like to underscore the importance of the Security Council's support for regional peace and security efforts of the African Union, the Economic Community of West Africa States and the Mano River Union. The Council's support for implementation of the strategy for cross-border security in the Mano River Union presents an opportunity in that regard.

In concluding, I would take this opportunity to thank the people and Government of Sierra Leone, in particular His Excellency President Ernest Bai Koroma, for their support for the efforts of the United Nations, including the seamless and timely completion of UNIPSIL's drawdown and exit. I would also like to reiterate our appreciation to the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and all bilateral donors for the fruitful partnership for peacebuilding in Sierra Leone. Finally, I thank the Council for its commitment to success in Sierra Leone through the United Nations peace operations during the past 15 years, and particularly during UNIPSIL's mandate.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Rishchynski.

Mr. Rishchynski: It is a great honour to brief the Security Council on this occasion. The passage of Sierra Leone from the Security Council's formal agenda marks the crossing of an important threshold. Sierra Leone is making the transition from the special attention to post-conflict countries to a more traditional development footing. It has established political stability, restored basic security, reinvigorated democratic processes, built important national institutions and generated economic growth. Those are tremendous achievements.

It is often said that there can be no peace without justice. A pertinent development in Sierra Leone is that, in partnership with the international community, the country established a Special Court for Sierra Leone to bring to justice the perpetrators of horrific crimes committed during their war. The Special Court can take pride in both that contribution and in setting a number of firsts, such as the first conviction of a former Head of State since Nuremberg, Charles Taylor. The Special Court set precedents concerning attacks on United Nations peacekeepers, child soldiers and forced marriage, and it was the first international tribunal to successfully conclude its mandate. The Special Court was a true partnership between Sierra Leone, the United Nations and Member States, with great credit due to its judges and staff, the Management Committee and, most importantly, the Government and people of Sierra Leone.

(*spoke in French*)

In addition to this progress, it is also worth noting the speed with which Sierra Leone managed this transformation. Fourteen years ago, the country hosted the world's largest peacekeeping mission. At a time when much policy attention is focused on managing periods of transition, Sierra Leone stands as an example of what it is possible to accomplish with successively smaller peace operations successfully giving way to an integrated peacebuilding office and a United Nations country team led by a resident coordinator. More broadly, Sierra Leone is a success story built on steady progress, able support from the United Nations system as a whole, committed bilateral assistance and, above all, the dedication of Sierra Leoneans.

While the withdrawal of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

(UNIPSIL) should be properly celebrated, it should also not be mistaken for an end point. Despite such significant progress, a number of problems remain. The root causes of the original conflict cannot be fully addressed in little more than a decade. Corruption requires continued attention, and youth unemployment remains high. Security and justice sector institutions will require sustained capacity-building, especially if they are to retain the public trust. Surging investment in natural resources and challenges associated with managing land tenure hold potential for conflict at the communal level. As time passes, we hope that Sierra Leoneans will also be able increasingly to expect concrete improvements in health, education, employment, and infrastructure. We commend the Government of Sierra Leone for having identified these various challenges in its Agenda for Prosperity and for taking steps to address them.

(*spoke in English*)

At the same time, recognizing these realities highlights the need for sustained support. Too often, the international community has failed to adequately persevere for the full duration of peace consolidation efforts. I am very pleased to report that initial indications in Sierra Leone are very positive. Bilateral donors have remained steadfast in their commitments and some are increasing their funding. The United Nations country team is prepared to absorb key residual responsibilities from UNIPSIL, particularly in the key areas of conflict prevention and security sector reform, thanks in part to the Peacebuilding Fund. United Nations technical assistance is also being provided for the constitutional review process, which represents a tremendous opportunity to strengthen democracy, enshrine human rights, address women's rights, reform land tenure, and consider natural resource management. As with all such processes, the constitutional review also holds the potential to generate political tensions if not managed carefully.

For its part, the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) with Sierra Leone will continue over the course of the coming year, albeit in a significantly scaled-down form. When we returned from our most recent visit to Freetown in late February, impressed by the level of consensus on this point, the Government of Sierra Leone, national stakeholders, diplomatic partners, and the United Nations country team all expressed the utility of the PBC's political accompaniment.

(*spoke in French*)

Its future role will be lighter than it is now, with the emphasis on serving as an advocate with the international community and responding to needs as they arise by mobilizing international attention. As Chair, I plan to maintain close communication with the Government, its international partners and the United Nations country team. Coordination among a smaller steering group of particularly interested Member States will allow for a more adaptive approach and a reduction in the number of formal configuration meetings. Recognizing that this new role is precedent-setting for the Commission, I also intend to conduct a light stock-taking exercise in approximately one year with a view to Sierra Leone's exit from the Commission's agenda, if appropriate at that time.

(*spoke in English*)

Sierra Leone has shown us all that recovery from war is possible. In the process, it has also proved again that the United Nations can tackle complex peacebuilding challenges and see them through to completion. It has demonstrated that investment in peace on the part of international partners can reap significant dividends, as best expressed by Sierra Leone's transformation from a recipient of peacekeeping support 15 years ago to a valued troop-contributing country today. Most importantly, at a time when the international community is faced with a series of terrible crises that afflict us all, Sierra Leone shows that a society determined to build a better future can indeed succeed. We should celebrate that development.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Rishchynski for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I should like to welcome Foreign Minister Kamara to the Security Council this morning. I also thank Executive Representative Jens Toyberg-Frandzen and Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski for their briefings. I pay particular tribute to Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen for his personal contribution over the past two and a half years to the work of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL).

The United Kingdom welcomes the presidential statement to be adopted later this morning on the completion of the UNIPSIL mandate. Today marks

a watershed in the history of Sierra Leone and is a moment of celebration for the people of Sierra Leone, the United Nations and the Security Council. Today, I will reflect on three points: Sierra Leone's success, the work ahead to consolidate peace, and the key lessons we can learn from Sierra Leone as we address conflicts elsewhere in Africa and around the world.

First, with respect to Sierra Leone's success, since Sierra Leone came on to the Security Council agenda 15 years ago it has undergone a remarkable transformation from civil war to landmark presidential elections in November 2012. Today is another milestone in Sierra Leone's journey from fragile State to a country that now supports conflict-resolution efforts around Africa. In 2002, Sierra Leone hosted the world's largest peacekeeping mission in the aftermath of a brutal war. In 2014, Sierra Leone contributes its own troops to other peacekeeping missions in Africa, helping to provide stability in countries such as Somalia and Mali.

The United Nations played a central role in helping Sierra Leone to recover from its devastating civil war. Effective, tailored and well-planned United Nations peacebuilding interventions can improve people's lives. The United Kingdom welcomes the closure of the United Nations peacebuilding mission in Sierra Leone, and I commend the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, and all other UNIPSIL staff for their dedicated work in Sierra Leone. I also welcome David McLachlan-Karr as the new United Nations Resident Coordinator.

Second is the work ahead in Sierra Leone. While today we celebrate the departure of UNIPSIL, we must remember the long road ahead for Sierra Leone as it seeks to become a middle-income country. As the Secretary-General recognized during his visit earlier this month, there is still much to be done if we are to consolidate the gains of the past decade. President Koroma's ambitious five-year development plan, the Agenda for Prosperity, sets out the development and social tasks ahead. Tackling corruption will be essential to attracting investment and insuring that economic growth benefits all citizens.

The recently agreed mutual accountability framework will underpin the Agenda for Prosperity by bringing together the Government of Sierra Leone and donor partners. The United Nations, the United Kingdom and other members of the international community will continue to work with the Government of Sierra Leone. In that regard, we are delighted that Sierra Leone will be one of seven new markets to receive United Kingdom Department of Trade and Industry resources.

Finally, I would like to touch on the lessons we can learn from Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone's experience teaches us that it is possible to build peace in the aftermath of brutal conflict and that the United Nations can play a central role in that process. Strong national ownership of peacebuilding processes and a focus on building national institutions are essential to securing sustainable peace. Political will is required at both the national and international levels. Political engagement from the international community, such as through the Security Council, is needed to provide checks and balances to national decisions. The different instruments of the United Nations must work in a complementary fashion, such as between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. If we are to replicate the success of Sierra Leone, we must take those lessons and apply them to our discussions elsewhere in Africa and beyond, while drawing on the experiences and reflections of our colleagues and friends from Sierra Leone.

In conclusion, I would like to extend the United Kingdom's best wishes to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone and to the new United Nations country team in their work in the years to come. The United Kingdom will continue to be one of the country's closest friends. We look forward to many years of fruitful partnership ahead.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council's guest today, Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, has convincingly shown that today marks a genuine milestone for his country. With the work of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) drawing to a close in less than a week, the long-time presence of the United Nations in the country will also come to an end. The country is closing a chapter and moving beyond its past.

We note the success achieved in Sierra Leone in the areas of peacebuilding and post-conflict stabilization. Of course, the international community played an important role in that regard, mainly the United Nations and the Security Council. Comprehensive and coordinated and agreed upon efforts were undertaken. The experience gained in Sierra Leone will be useful

in finding long-term, lasting solutions to other conflict situations.

However, regardless of its scope, no outside support or assistance can alone achieve significant results without the active efforts of the people of a country and their Government, including their aspirations for peace and prosperity. The principle of national ownership has become a guarantee of progress at all peacebuilding stages — the people of Sierra Leone themselves choosing priorities in that regard.

Today there is a multifaceted political progress taking place in the country in the context of various laws. The economy is growing steadily. There are political parties and civic organizations. And there exists a civil society and media. Tangible efforts are being made to ensure and uphold human rights. It is of the utmost importance that the country maintain stability and security. In addition, new tasks have emerged today, in particular in the social and economic areas. All of those positive strides should be strengthened and scaled up.

Of course, as with any other country, Sierra Leone has its problems. Some of those have been described in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/192) before us today. We support the active intention of the country to resolve those issues in a timely manner.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to all UNIPSIL staff, as well as to Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen personally for all his efforts.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to begin by welcoming Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone. I also thank Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, as well Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

As the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) comes to an end, I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff of the Office, both local and international, including the staff of the United Nations country team, for their contribution in establishing security and stability and supporting peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone.

No one can deny that the positive turn of events in Sierra Leone in recent years would not have taken place without the determination of the country's people, whatever their ethnic or political affiliations, to build their State, strengthen their economy, address all the repercussions of the civil war, aspire to a hopeful future and strengthen and develop their region. In that regard, we note that such determination was supported by the efforts of the United Nations at the highest levels to complement the work of UNIPSIL and the country team, both in the capital and in field offices. That made it possible to secure many achievements — in strategic planning, for example — as well as in the areas of implemenation and financing. Moreover, we would like to pay tribute to the crucial role of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in providing criminal justice as part of ensuring peace in the country.

The closing of UNIPSIL in no way means the end of United Nations commitment in Sierrra Leone. On the contrary, this is a key moment in transferring certain functions to the country team following the very successful conclusion of the work of the Office. Dialogue will now be the means for resolving conflicts, and elections will also be held. The participation of women and young people in Government institutions will be very important. There will be reform of the security sector, in particular to address corruption and drug trafficking. And there will also be strengthening of human rights. All those are very important achievements.

We believe that the Government of Sierra Leone's assumption of political, economic and security responsibilities is an essential pillar in ensuring lasting stability. Moreover, working on the basis of the principles of good governance, justice and an equitable distribution of the dividends of economic development will strengthen the credibility of the Government and boost national unity, thereby decreasing the likelihood of conflict among the parties to the extent that economic development and the fair distribution of development benefits constitute the primary basis for political and security stability.

With regard to recent investment in the sound performance of the economy of Sierra Leone, we would encourage the Government to continue to make progress in that direction, with the cooperation of the international community, by implementing the Agenda for Prosperity for the period 2013 to 2018, improving financial stability, reforming the monetary system and improving the system for the management of public assets.

In conclusion, although we are aware of the challenges, we remain optimistic about the future of Sierra Leone. We have full trust in the future of the country, thanks to the efforts of the people and the determination of the Government to face those challenges and to continue to achieve progress in various areas. We also think that the work of UNIPSIL should be documented so that the lessons learned can be adopted by other missions in the field.

Ms. King (Australia): I would like to welcome to the Security Council His Excellency Mr. Samura Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone. I would also like to thank Executive Representative Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen for his briefing and his work and for that of the entire team of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). I also thank Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski for his leadership of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and for his detailed briefing this morning on the ongoing work of the PBC.

The closure of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, in five days' time, will mark an important transition for both Sierra Leone and for the United Nations system. Sierra Leone has made extraordinary progress since the end of the civil war in consolidating peace and democracy. As Sierra Leone's focus turns now from consolidating peace to spurring economic development, it is appropriate that we acknowledge achievements and look at challenges ahead.

After more than 15 years of successive United Nations peace operations, Sierra Leone now has stronger institutions, an entrenched democratic culture with regular elections and a vigorous civil society. It is actively fighting corruption and strengthening accountability. It is a successful model of how post-conflict countries can address transitional justice in a way that holds perpetrators of past crimes to account, while promoting national reconciliation. Australia commends the people and the Government of Sierra Leone for that remarkable progress.

UNIPSIL has been central to that success. As the Secretary-General's final report (S/2014/192) makes clear, by integrating its political mandate together with the development and humanitarian mandates of United Nations agencies, UNIPSIL was instrumental to United Nations system efforts in Sierra Leone to deliver as one. It continuously led efforts to promote political dialogue, manage electoral-related disputes and strengthen the vital role of civil society. And it provided crucial support to strengthen the capacity and independence of key institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the Political Parties Registration Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Australia welcomes the withdrawal of UNIPSIL as a good model for the conclusion of a successful United Nations peacebuilding mission. Executive Representative Toyberg-Frandzen's strong leadership of the mission during this critical time has contributed to a seamless transition. We would encourage the Secretariat to draw on the lessons that have been gleaned from the transition process to consider how they could and should be applied elsewhere.

None of that, however, is to underestimate the challenges that lie ahead. The constitutional review process holds great potential for reducing political polarization in Sierra Leone and fostering a culture of political inclusivity. Corruption and youth unemployment will remain major challenges for the Government, as will addressing trans-national threats such as drug trafficking and maritime piracy. Continuing to strengthen Sierra Leone's institutions, particularly the security sector and the judiciary, will be important in tackling those challenges.

We are particularly encouraged by the development and recent launch of a security sector reform programme, with support from United Nations Development Programme and the Peacebuilding Fund, to assist in strengthening the police and other institutions. While the Sierra Leone police have come a long way over the past 12 years, a number of challenges remain, including accountability, governance, oversight and corruption.

As investment in Sierra Leone's extractive industries increases, it will also be important to strengthen transparency and accountability in the natural resources sector and to establish robust dispute-resolution mechanisms. Then Sierra Leone can ensure that all its people benefit from the boom and the dividends of peace.

The withdrawal of UNIPSIL does not mean that Sierra Leone is alone in addressing those challenges. The United Nations country team continues to impress, with its high level of integration and the seamless manner in which its agencies took over responsibility

for many of UNIPSIL's residual functions. The PBC will continue to be engaged in supporting the United Nations transition process. We fully support the Sierra Leone configuration's proposed modalities for a lighter and more responsive approach.

Other countries in West Africa share many of Sierra Leone's challenges, therefore increased cooperation with them will be essential for Sierra Leone to tackle common threats. Australia sees great potential in a reinvigorated Mano River Union, which is strengthening subregional security, including through the establishment of cross-border security units along the common borders of its members. Similarly, the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to address maritime piracy, which threatens regional prosperity, would be important for all the countries of the region. It will also be important for the United Nations Office for West Africa to continue to provide good offices and a preventive diplomacy role following UNIPSIL's departure.

In conclusion, I echo Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen's comment that Sierra Leone's remarkable progress is due first and foremost to the determination of its people to forge a clear path to peace. But UNIPSIL, and the United Nations more broadly, has been its absolutely steadfast partner, and the results of that partnership are now clear for all to see. We wish the people of Sierra Leone every success for their future.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): I thank Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Toyberg-Frandzen for his briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone and for his work on bringing the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) to a successful close and in driving the smooth transfer of UNIPSIL's remaining responsibilities to the United Nations country team. We would also like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), for his efforts to spearhead the PBC's work in Sierra Leone. We also welcome Foreign Minister Kamara to the Security Council today.

With the grisly images of the war that ravaged Sierra Leone still seared in our memories, today's meeting is all the more remarkable. While many in Sierra Leone lost so much, we have witnessed how the victims of the war never lost the strength to rebuild their country. We are in the Council today to mark the official closure of UNIPSIL because of its determined work and the helping hand offered by the United Nations and international community to Sierra Leone. This has not been an easy journey, and we commend Sierra Leone for the distance it has travelled.

Not only does the situation in Sierra Leone offer other nations embroiled in conflict a concrete example of how to rebuild from the most devastating of circumstances, it also offers the international community a promising example of the valuable role the United Nations can play in helping a country work through civil war and post-war crises. We remember not long ago when 15,000 peacekeepers were deployed to Sierra Leone to maintain a shaky peace. United Nations peacekeepers, humanitarian and development experts all deserve our praise for helping to foster the peaceful conditions that Sierra Leone enjoys today. Today, seeing Sierra Leone as a troop contributor, we know we have witnessed a great turnaround.

Sierra Leone and the United Nations must be commended for their collective and collaborative successes. The Special Court for Sierra Leone, which the United Nations established, has fostered reconciliation by bringing the worst perpetrators of that terrible war to justice, including Charles Taylor. Sierra Leone also did the hard and slow work of rebuilding its Government with UNIPSIL's help. We encourage Sierra Leone to continue strengthening Government institutions.

We also encourage the Government to continue to seek guidance and support from the United Nations country team, focusing especially on much-needed economic development. Unemployed, uneducated youth leave a country vulnerable to unrest, as Sierra Leone learned all too well. Jobs and economic growth are key ingredients to keeping the hopes of the next generation alive. Ranked at the bottom of the Human Development Index just two years ago, Sierra Leone has already climbed 10 places, and we have every expectation that this trajectory will continue. The international community must continue to support that growth as well.

Sierra Leone is a model post-conflict country, but we know that tensions remain and the underlying causes of war have not been fully addressed. The ongoing constitutional review process should be used to reconcile those underlying tensions. We encourage Sierra Leone to broach that effort cautiously and inclusively in order to ensure that all Sierra Leoneans have a voice in the process.

Despite the many successes of the Anti-Corruption Commission and its transnational organized crime unit, corruption in Sierra Leone remains a deeply rooted problem that compromises citizens' access to basic public services and institutions such as health, education and the police. Unfortunately, the public views the judiciary as one of the most corrupt sectors. The rule of law and public trust in the fairness of courts are essential to preserving peace. We strongly encourage Sierra Leone to redouble its efforts to improve the judicial sector to preserve the progress it has made.

Sierra Leoneans will not face those challenges alone. The international community remains invested in peace and stability in Sierra Leone and will continue to offer assistance. The United States, for example, is launching a new $2.5 million, 18-month pilot programme in the region that will address corruption and transnational crime, most notably in Sierra Leone.

Finally, we support the recommendation made by the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission that Sierra Leone's PBC configuration evolve to a lighter role over the coming year, as suits the situation in-country. We also support Ambassador Rishchynski's suggestion that we review the PBC's role in 2015, with a view to further refining and possibly drawing down the PBC in Sierra Leone. That potential drawdown should be carefully planned based on the situation on the ground, and considered when the time is right and sustainable peace is firmly in place.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, and Ambassador Rishchynski for their briefings. I also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone to our meeting today.

Currently, the overall security situation in Sierra Leone is stable. Its economy has developed quite quickly, and various social spheres have seen significant progress.

China congratulates Sierra Leone on its positive achievements in its peaceful reconstruction. China appreciates the tireless efforts made by the Government of Sierra Leone in consolidating peace, promoting development, strengthening Government-building and facilitating social progress with the support of the international community. China hopes that Sierra Leone will continue to implement, in a comprehensive manner, its agenda for prosperity, steadily advance in its constitutional review process, defuse political tensions, eradicate the root causes of political tension and conflict and consolidate the achievements of its peacebuilding efforts so that all the people of Sierra Leone will be able to enjoy the dividends of peace and development.

Since its inception, in 2008, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) has maintained close engagement and cooperation with the Government of Sierra Leone and has played a positive role in, and made an important contribution to, defusing tension and potential conflicts, maintaining overall peace and stability and supporting the reconstruction and development of Sierra Leone.

China highly appreciates the work of Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Toyberg-Frandzen, his predecessor and his entire team.

UNIPSIL's mandate will come to an end by the end of the month. This not only marks the successful completion of the transition from conflict to peace in Sierra Leone, but has also established a good model for the United Nations in helping other countries in post-conflict situations to achieve lasting peace and development. Its successful practices should be compiled and promoted.

The success of the United Nations experiences in Sierra Leone indicates that, in conducting its peacebuilding activities, the United Nations should give top priority to the ownership and leadership of the countries concerned, fully respect their sovereignty and aspirations, provide assistance in priority areas identified by the Governments concerned and help in the development of a comprehensive peacebuilding strategy, taking into consideration the situation on the ground.

Secondly, the United Nations should help the countries concerned to accelerate economic and social development and improve their peoples' lives by addressing the root causes of the conflict.

Thirdly, the Organization must assist the countries concerned in capacity-building in various fields and develop their capabilities in a sustainable manner so as to establish a solid foundation and guarantee for achieving lasting peace and development.

A new page has been turned in Sierra Leone's history. The country is embarking upon the road

to lasting peace, stability and social and economic development and prosperity. However, Sierra Leone still faces many difficulties and challenges in terms of eradicating poverty, strengthening governance and promoting youth employment. It will continue to need the support and assistance of the United Nations and the international community.

It is our hope that the international community, in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, will provide financial support to Sierra Leone in advancing its development in various areas so that the country can achieve comprehensive development. China is ready to join hands with the international community and make its own positive contribution for an early realization of lasting peace and development in Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): We welcome Foreign Minister Samura Kamara. We are glad to have him in our midst today. I would like to take the opportunity of his presence among us to convey our very heartfelt condolences on the passing of the former President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. We join the Government and people of Sierra Leone in paying our respects to his memory.

I want to thank Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Toyberg-Frandzen on his comprehensive briefing on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), our colleague Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, deserves our greatest appreciation for the passion, commitment and remarkable dedication with which he has approached his task. Indeed, he is part of this success story.

We commend the Government and people of Sierra Leone for their purposeful collaboration with UNIPSIL, which has culminated in discernable progress towards peace, stability and long-term development. Today, as speakers before me have noted, Sierra Leone represents one of the success stories of post-conflict recovery, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Three elements have emerged as the drivers of the success that we all applaud today in Sierra Leone's transformation: political dialogue towards a constitutional review process and national inclusiveness, security sector support and the strengthening of human rights institutions. Those will constitute the focus of my comments.

First, the close collaboration among the Government, civil society and non-State actors towards developing solutions to common challenges provides considerable inspiration and, indeed, a good foundation. That was particularly evident in the dialogue held during the constitutional review process. Such efforts promote understanding, political participation and capacity-building for governance institutions and are a clear sign of the country's democratic progress. More significantly, they laid the foundations for the holding of peaceful and credible elections, which represent a milestone in the political history of Sierra Leone.

The security reforms that have taken place in the country during the transition are crucial. We note specifically the establishment of the transnational organized crime unit and other regional initiatives, in conjunction with UNIPSIL, for combating national and transnational crime. We encourage the strengthening of such initiatives through the development of national institutions and capacity-building of the security agencies. That is even more pertinent as UNIPSIL hands over its functions to the State authorities later this year.

As UNIPSIL winds up its activities, it is important to highlight the efforts of the National Human Rights Commission in establishing a framework that promotes accountability. Such mechanisms have contributed immeasurably to the creation of a relatively conducive environment for the protection of vulnerable members of society. In the same vein, we welcome the hybrid mechanism of utilizing the courts and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in fighting impunity. The most visible fruits of that effort are the considerable lessons that serve to address the issue of transitional justice.

As other speakers before me have aptly noted, reconciliation is indeed possible after a protracted and bitter conflict. We applaud the steady and remarkable recovery of civilians from the socioeconomic collapse. We acknowledge the steadfastness of donors and international development partners, which have served as pillars of support. The onus is now on the authorities of Sierra Leone to consolidate those gains and to reinforce them by encouraging investment and the development of opportunities in the country.

We are indeed pleased to support the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of the meeting. It not only speaks to the remarkable recovery

of Sierra Leone but also is an eloquent testimony to the remarkable achievements of UNIPSIL. For that, we remain greatly indebted to Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Toyberg-Frandzen and his staff for their commitment and dedication in the success story of Sierra Leone today.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, and Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, for their presentations to the Council and for their efforts and concern. We welcome the presence of Mr. Samura Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone has almost become a successful pioneer in multilateralism. It has brought together the will of a people and its authorities in order to build a unified society in peace through the cooperation and assistance of various regional and subregional actors and the United Nations system, in particualr the Peacebuilding Commission. A common strategic vision identified the priority areas for assistance, which, together with international cooperation, made it possible to build national capacity and enabled the people of Sierra Leone again to find the path of peace and development. UNIPSIL leaves Sierra Leone with the satisfaction of having accomplished its mandate and in the hope that the lessons learned and good practices can be of benefit to other situations under the Council's consideration.

A crucial stage has come to an end. However, the task is not complete. Sierra Leone still faces challenges and outstanding issues to resolve. In order to cooperate with the authorities in such areas, Sierra Leone will continue to enjoy the support of the United Nations country team. In particular, the timetable outlined for constitutional reform, security sector reform, the conflict-prevention and human rights and rule of law programmes and the implementation of the property schedule must be maintained. Likewise, we must continue to address the issues of poverty, corruption and accountability. Such efforts must be completed so that what has so painstakingly been achieved becomes irreversible. The international financial institutions and the international community will be a fundamental pillar of this new stage.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the staff of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone and of United Nations funds and programmes, as well as regional and international actors, for their dedication and work. We truly congratulate the people and Government of Sierra Leone on their readiness for and commitment to peace and development. My country welcomes the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first to thank Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, for his presentation. I also commend the intervention of Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I of course welcome the presence among us of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone. On behalf of France, I would like to welcome this historic time for Sierra Leone. I would like to focus on three aspects of the situation in the country.

Since the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in 2002, Sierra Leone has followed an exemplary path. The closing of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) is the happy conclusion of 15 years' of United Nations activity in that country. Such success is of course primarily that of the people of Sierra Leone themelves, whose resilience and determination to rebuild their country after the crisis must be admired. It is also an example of the successful role of the United Nations in the stabilization.

Since that time, the country has undergone three peaceful elections. The political situation is stable. Economic growth should continue thanks to the Government's readiness to improve the business climate and to encourage key investments. Sierra Leone has therefore made significant progress on all fronts. The United Nations has contributed to that positive development by supporting the Sierra Leone authorities at every stage. I would like to commend the successful and steady management of the transition thanks, in particular, to the remarkable work of the United Nations team under the coordination of Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen. Lessons should be drawn from that success. Where possible, the United Nations should leave a clear path for the country to take full control of its destiny.

However. as we know, Sierra Leone stil faces challenges. The constitutional reform under way is a historic step in dealing with the root causes of conflict

in the country. The efforts of President Koroma to promote political dialogue should come to fruition. All sectors of society should talk and work together. The general elections of 2017 and 2018 will be a true test of democracy, and we will watch their smooth development carefully. The management of national resources could, unfortunately, be a source of communal conflict. Fighting corruption should therefore continue to be a priority for the Government. The United Nations country team should bear that in mind.

Finally, the closure of UNIPSIL does not stop the international community from carefully following the Sierra Leone's development in the years to come. In that regard, I am pleased to welcome the draft presidential statement that we will be adopting shortly. The Security Council calls for the international community to maintain its commitment over the long term to the consolidation of peace and development in Sierra Leone.

The European Union is engaged in the country, as are the United Nations Development ProgramSAme, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, among others. I would also like to note that the PBC is proposing a continuation of its work in Sierra Leone to a lesser degree. It can therefore support the Agenda for Prosperity promoted by the authorities of Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, Mr. Kamara, and Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). We are also grateful for the briefing by the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski.

Sierra Leone is a clear example of the fact that human beings and communities are not condemned to failure and that it is always possible to pick oneself up from the worst tragedies and most difficult situations, such as civil war, which for 10 years led to deaths, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons and refugees, and the deploymen of 17,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops in that country. Clearly this did not come about by pure magic. What has happened has come about because of the resolve and perseverance of the people of Sierra Leone and the cooperation of the United Nations and the countries of the region.

That is why today, as we close the door on a very sensitive and painful stage in the development of the country, characterized by recurring human rights violations and a serious humanitarian situation in which pain and suffering became routine, a promising horizon is emerging in Sierra Leone. Of course, there will be difficulties; we all have them. But at the same time, they will be peacefully addressed and resolved because Sierra Leone has managed to rebuild the rule of law. It has a Constitution and democratic institutions. It has been able to achieve peace within its borders, and it enjoys an extremely promising economic situation with a predicted growth rate for 2014 of 14 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Its political leaders and its society are clearly aware that economic growth alone will not be sufficient, but that the best ideas and innovative practices must be implemented in order to guarantee a more inclusive, free and egalitarian society. Without a doubt, the situation has turned around and we hope that the Government of President Koroma and whoever follows him will continue along that path, which begins with the closure of UNIPSIL.

We know that the challenges have to be dealt with in a timely and responsible manner in order to move forward. In that respect, efforts must be multiplied to overcome problems related to corruption, an evil that remains to be overcome with political decisiveness and efficient mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability and the active control of society. That is essential in order to ensure that the people are once again able to trust their democratic Government institutions. In that regard, we welcome the recent announcement of the Government of Sierra Leone of its intention to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission. We know that corruption endangers fundamental rights, exacerbates marginalization, perpetuates poverty and affects the most vulnerable groups.

The people and Government of Sierra Leone know that they must continue to fight the deep-seated causes that led to internal fighting and civil war for so many years. In that regard, the support of the international community and the cooperation of the United Nations, working shoulder to shoulder with the Government and people of Sierra Leone to help them to meet their national goals, are indispensable. Due attention should be paid and particular focus given to the monitoring and promotion of respect for human rights and the rule of law, the fight against poverty and inequality,

implementing the corresponding reforms to ensure good governance, the eradication of corruption, support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, and inclusive dialogue between the political parties and various social partners. Those are key in order to consolidate the achievements made.

It is very encouraging to know that, according to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/192), 70 per cent of the 1,800 cases that were submitted to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone for consideration since it was established seven years ago have been resolved. The law on human rights that has been passed with the aim of ensuring the equality of women and gender equality, preventing, eradicating and punishing violence against women, and strengthening their political participation, in addition to other laws that the Parliament has approved with regard to the rights of the child and persons with disabilities, are also encouraging.

We know that the Government will and must continue along the path of ensuring the rule of law, strengthening security institutions and taking measures, as other colleagues have said, to resolve the high level of youth unemployment. Sustained economic growth, the proper use of natural resources and the establishment of conditions conducive to investment will undoubtedly lead to the creation of decent jobs and reducing poverty, improvements in health and education, and inclusive conditions for the people of Sierra Leone. We know that those are Sierra Leone's challenges, but they are also challenges in our own countries and as members of the international community.

In conclusion, we believe that it is critical that the ongoing distrust among the most important political parties be overcome. While we recognize that the electoral cycles are coming to an end, we welcome the initiative of President Koroma to meet with the leaders of the political parties that are legally registered.

We celebrate the successful handing over of power from UNIPSIL to the United Nations country team, according to the plan established for the transition.

In conclusion, I wish to mark this noteworthy and exemplary moment. It reflects a key part of the success of the mission. The capacity that has been developed by UNIPSIL to break the vicious cycle fear in society and uncertainty among people that we have seen when most mandates of United Nations missions come to an end is praiseworthy. I wish to emphatically recognize how UNIPSIL approached the issue of finding work for local staff so as to ensure that it was able to ensure jobs for half of its local staff.

We again thank the United Nations country team for its assistance to the Government in very different areas. We agree with the Secretary-General that the assistance of international partners is still needed, and we reiterate his call to shore up the funding for the poverty-reduction strategy in Sierra Leone, the Agenda for Prosperity for 2013-2018. Congratulations are also in order for the work that has been carried out by the Peacebuilding Commission and for Executive Representative Toyberg-Frandzen.

We fully endorse the draft presidential statement before us.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I thank Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, and Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, for their statements.

I would like to welcome Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

With resolution 2097 (2013), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) to 31 March 2014 so as to assist the Government in bringing to completion the efforts undertaken since its establishment on 4 August, 2008. During that time, we have observed positive progress overall, with a generally satisfactory situation, as underscored in the reports of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the mission and of leaders of the various United Nations agencies on the ground.

Throughout its mandate, UNIPSIL has continuously worked to promote national dialogue and the freedom of the press, to strengthen the capacities of parliamentarians, and to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. One of the most outstanding results was the holding of peaceful and credible elections in 2012, for the first time in Sierra Leone. As a result of that positive development, on 21 October 2013 the International Monetary Fund approved the new 2013-2016 economic and financial plan for Sierra Leone.

With the sense that UNIPSIL's work has concluded, the process of drawing down begins by addressing pending tasks. Its closure will mark the end of more than 15 years of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone. The broad success of the mission's operations is due to the determination of the Sierra Leonean people to rebuild their country and to build peace. It has also been thanks to the commitment of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and his entire team, as well as effective cooperation between the host country, the United Nations and regional and international partners.

The experience in Sierra Leone could serve as an example and shows that the international community can succeed and achieve positive results when all stakeholders work together to promote peace, stability, democracy and development in a post-conflict country. We thank UNIPSIL for having garnered this success for the United Nations, and we call on the international community to maintain its support for the Sierra Leonean Government in maintaining and strengthening peace in the country, taking into due account the priorities of the Agenda for Prosperity.

In conclusion, we would like to express our support for the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of this meeting.

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda): I would like to thank Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, for his briefing and for the tremendous work he has done in ensuring the successful completion of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). I also wish to thank Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski of Canada, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission configuration for Sierra Leone, for briefing us, especially on his visit to the country from 25 to 28 February, and for his dedication in steering one of the most successful peacebuilding processes.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and to thank him for the tremendous achievements registered by his country over the past 15 years.

As UNIPSIL completes its mandate at the end of this month, we can say without the shadow of a doubt that, after 15 years of presence in Sierra Leone, the United Nations peace operations in that country have decisively achieved their goal of supporting Sierra Leone and its people. Despite the indelible scars left by the terrible civil war in Sierra Leone, the country has made remarkable progress, in particular in the security, political, socioeconomic and human rights sectors. We note with great satisfaction that Sierra Leone has successfully embarked on the path to sustainable security, democratic governance facilitated by strong institutions, respect for human rights and the rule of law, economic growth and regional cooperation.

In this regard, we congratulate President Ernest Bai Koroma on his leadership and extend our congratulations to the Government and the resilient people of Sierra Leone. We especially commend President Koroma for his outreach efforts to promote political dialogue through his regular informal meetings with the 10 registered political parties in Sierra Leone. We believe that this will further reduce political tension and build harmony to the benefit of everyone, in particular as political space is increasingly being given to women and youth.

However, as noted by the Secretary-General, Sierra Leone must build on these political gains and address the root causes of conflict, which are mainly related to poverty, corruption and political exclusion. In this respect, we call on the two major political parties in Sierra Leone — the All Peoples Congress and the Sierra Leone People's Party — to build on the positive trend and resolve their internal tensions through dialogue. In this context, we welcome the ongoing constitutional review aimed at addressing issues of governance, human rights, natural resources and land tenure, but we call on all parties to conduct that process with diligence and to ensure public ownership through inclusive nationwide consultations.

We note with satisfaction that the general security situation in Sierra Leone has remained calm and stable. We hope that the national authorities, with the support of development partners, will soon complete the creation of a national infrastructure for peace to prevent and address conflict, and also implement the planned project to cement the culture of seeking peaceful solutions. In the meantime, Sierra Leone needs to continue strengthening its coordination with countries of the region in order to counter transnational organized crime and drug-trafficking. We therefore welcome the close coordination with the Economic

Community of West African States and the Mano River Union in efforts to tackle transnational crime, ensure cross-border security and promote stability. Furthermore, we commend the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its support to the Government of Sierra Leone in implementing the West Africa Coast Initiative to combat transnational organized crime.

Our country, Rwanda, which had to face the terrible consequences of the genocide committed against the Tutsi 20 years ago, highly appreciates the tremendous achievements of Sierra Leone in addressing transitional justice through the hybrid Truth and Reconciliation Commission. While every country emerging from conflict follows its own path in dealing with post-conflict challenges, it is clear that experience-sharing among fellow African countries is of paramount importance to ensure permanent peace on the continent.

We take this opportunity to echo the draft presidential statement to be adopted, which we endorse, and congratulate the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the completion of its mandate. Rwanda was honoured to be part of that process, having received convicts from the Court in our correctional facilities.

Rwanda welcomes the positive socioeconomic advances in Sierra Leone, as well as the International Monetary Fund projection that gross domestic product will increase by 15 per cent in 2014 and by 12.4 per cent in 2015. In order to sustain peace and development and to create greater opportunities for all Sierra Leoneans, without any distinction, we encourage the Government of Sierra Leone to establish an attractive business environment and to combat all forms of corruption. In that regard, Rwanda welcomes the signing of the mutual accountability framework by the Government and development partners, confirming their commitment to working closely to strengthen Government-donor relations within the framework of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Also encouraging is the fact that development partners have discussed the post-UNIPSIL engagement with the Government and agreed on the development partners' continuing efforts during the transition, especially in support of the Agenda for Prosperity.

As I said earlier, Sierra Leone's success should also be attributed to the PBC configuration chaired by Ambassador Rishchynski. We commend the configuration for its activities and advocacy, and we support the proposed scale-down of the PBC engagement in Sierra Leone to a lighter and more responsive approach and the establishment of a small steering group composed of close partners of Sierra Leone. We believe that such a configuration will maintain international attention on Sierra Leone while preparing for the country's smooth exit from the PBC's agenda.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen and the whole UNIPSIL team for a job well done in the service of Sierra Leone and the United Nations.

Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea): I would like to thank Executive Representative Toyberg-Frandzen and Ambassador Rishchynski for their valuable briefings. We also appreciate the participation of Mr. Samura Kamara, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone.

I would like to join others in offering my congratulations on the progress made through the combined efforts of all parties concerned. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) is surely an exemplary case of the United Nations system's effective coordination. Lessons learned through its activities should be shared and applied to other countries dealing with post-conflict peacebuilding. As we have witnessed, the determination of Sierra Leoneans to achieve peace and stability has been the driving force behind the progress that UNIPSIL, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and other partners have made so far.

The 2012 elections marked a watershed in Sierra Leone's political history. The two major political parties are now required to take on more responsibility for moving the country forward. We hope the political leadership will address the ethno-regional imbalance in order to further strengthen political inclusivity and social cohesion. With good governance and the rule of law, Sierra Leonean society can reach its full potential. In that context, we hope the Sierra Leonean authorities will continue to broaden their engagement not only with the political community but across the entire social spectrum, including with women and young people.

The implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity is also a priority for the Government. Sierra Leoneans' strong aspirations should be translated into sustainable development and prosperity. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed during his visit to Sierra Leone earlier this month, the United Nations should continue

to stand together with its Government and people. The Republic of Korea also fully supports the consolidation of peace and the promotion of democratic governance in Sierra Leone.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): First, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Council for His Excellency Mr. Samura Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone. I thank the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, for his briefing on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and his remarks on the remaining challenges facing the country as UNPSIL concludes its mandate. Since Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen has briefed the Council for the last time as Head of UNIPSIL, I offer my gratitude for his leadership in ensuring the successful implementation and conclusion of its mandate. I would also like to thank our colleague the Permanent Representative of Canada, Guillermo Rishchynski, Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, for his briefing and his personal dedication and commitment to the cause.

Lithuania congratulates the Government of Sierra Leone on the remarkable progress that has been achieved in post-conflict recovery, peace consolidation and democratic transition through the creation of a culture of the rule of law, accountability and political tolerance. As UNIPSIL completes its mandate, I would like to commend the effectiveness with which the United Nations, international financial institutions and regional organizations have contributed over the past 15 years to the peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone.

Challenges remain, however. In order to further consolidate peace, recovery and economic growth, more must be done in the context of peacebuilding, reforming the security sector, fighting corruption and furthering robust, inclusive development. Lithuania takes positive note of the security-sector reform programme launched by UNIPSIL in January. We welcome Sierra Leone's constitutional review process, conducted by the Constitutional Review Committee. The country's development partners will be playing an important role in that process. For example, the European Union has been engaged in the process, with a particular focus on capacity-building, technical assistance to the Review Committee and other key stakeholders, civic education and communication and consensus-building activities. Lithuania also welcomes the Government of Sierra Leone's recent adoption of the Agenda. for Prosperity. That prosperity should be built on successful reforms, strong economic growth, and, as many speakers have already noted, on combating corruption.

I would like to encourage Sierra Leone and United Nations entities to continue supporting women's full and equal participation in the country's political, economic and social spheres. All political parties in Sierra Leone should encourage and empower more women to participate in politics and give them more opportunities to seek election to Parliament and key positions in it. We note the proposal to enact a gender empowerment bill that would give statutory endorsement to a 30 per cent quota for women's participation. Similarly, civil society organizations led by women should be strengthened politically and financially in order to enable them to engage meaningfully in building the country's future.

Finally, a continued commitment on the part of the United Nations to peace in Western Africa remains essential. The engagement of the United Nations with Sierra Leone will be transformed as the country team takes over UNIPSIL's residual tasks. The country team's leadership will play a critical role in Sierra Leone's post-conflict development. Likewise, as is stressed in the presidential statement to be adopted by the Council, the United Nations Office for West Africa will make its good offices available to the Government of Sierra Leone. Once again, we congratulate the people and Government of Sierra Leone on the progress they have achieved. As the Security Council continues to deal with pressing crises and conflicts, Sierra Leone's story of recovery and progress is a much-needed and inspiring tale of hope.

The President (*spoke in French*): I will now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Luxembourg.

I, too, would like to welcome to the Security Council the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Mr. Samura Kamara. Luxembourg congratulates the Government and people of Sierra Leone on their exceptional accomplishments on the road to peacebuilding and economic development. Theirs is a success story indeed.

I thank the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, for his final briefing to the Council in that capacity. We salute him and the entire team of the United Nations

Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). They have carried out their mandate with dedication, effectiveness and professionalism in the allotted time. I would also like to thank Ambassador Guillermo Richchynski of Canada for his statement and for his exemplary commitment as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

At the end of 12 years of support on the part of the United Nations in the wake of a civil conflict of the most violent kind, Sierra Leone has made remarkable progress. The efforts to consolidate that progress must go on, for such progress is never irreversible. However, we are confident for the future. We are confident that the representatives elected by the Sierra Leoneans will possess the necessary wisdom to avoid the errors of the past. We trust that they will be ready to consider the national interest above all else, remain open to their partners' feedback, and find the necessary strength to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the country.

The Agenda for Prosperity is ambitious. Its implementation is essential if Sierra Leone is to achieve its goal of becoming a middle-income country by the year 2035. To that end, Sierra Leone will need partners. Its long-standing partners have already heeded the call. For the next seven years, the European Union has already set aside €372 million, amounting to some $500 million, under the framework of the European Development Fund, to support Sierra Leone in the areas of governance and civil society, education, agriculture and food security. The European Union has also decided to support Sierra Leone in the fields of constitutional reform and capacity-building of its police force.

In addition to official development assistance, Sierra Leone needs reliable foreign direct investment. Tax revenues will continue to grow. The economy must be diversified beyond the extraction of natural resources, which must take place under the necessary transparency so as to ensure that the income thus derived benefits the people of Sierra Leone as a whole. Efforts are also needed to prevent and resolve land disputes. Mutually beneficial arrangements for local communities and the private sector can and must be found.

Despite the persistent challenges, including endemic poverty and the unemployment that especially affects young people, we are confident that the people of Sierra Leone will enjoy the long-awaited peace dividends. The signing on 4 February of the mutual accountability framework under the framework of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States was a sign of confidence, as is the continuing partnership with the Peacebuilding Commission. Luxembourg welcomes Ambassador Rishchynski's proposal to adapt the approach of the Peacebuilding Commission's Sierra Leone configuration in the next 12 months.

Finally, Luxembourg commends the cooperation established by Sierra Leone among its neighbours in the Mano River Union. In October, the Union adopted a border security strategy that was drafted with the support of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). The implementation of the strategy will enhance the fight against transnational organized crime and build peace at the regional level. We count on the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the Office for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, and the UNOWA team, in collaboration with the United Nations country team, in supporting Sierra Leone in a continually evolving regional context.

The leaders of Sierra Leone bear a heavy burden of responsibility, but we are confident that they will continue to follow the positive path that has been forged over the past 12 years. The end of the Council's support represents a historic milestone. We thank the United Kingdom for preparing a draft presidential statement to allow the Council to duly note that. We wish great courage and success to the Government and people of Sierra Leone as they open a new chapter on the history of their country.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone): Let me start by congratulating you, Madam President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of March and by thanking you for inviting Sierra Leone to participate in the debate on the final report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/192) on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL).

I wish to convey, on behalf of His Excellency President Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, the Government and people of Sierra Leone, fond appreciation for the invaluable support and unfailing interest of the Security Council, the wider membership of the United

Nations and our international partners in consolidating our hard-won peace, security and stability to the point of being considered a historic success story of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, has asked me to tender his apologies for not being able to attend this meeting himself to deliver this message to the Council on this historic occasion.

> "It is a pleasure to address the Council today on this epoch-making event marking the end of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone and the transition of the United Nations engagement in Sierra Leone to the new United Nations country team model. Prior to this meeting, we were honoured to receive in Sierra Leone, first, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski in February, followed by no less a person than the Secretary-General on 4 and 5 March. The two eminent personalities came to join us in celebrating the wonderful transition in the United Nations mandate to Sierra Leone, defined by the residual and future roles of UNIPSIL and the Peacebuilding Commission.
>
> "We were heartened by their inspiring words about the remarkable progress our country has made, especially in identifying and resolving tensions and threats of potential conflicts, in monitoring and promoting human rights, in building peace and security, in consolidating good-governance reforms, and in undertaking the boldest ever sector-wide and nation-wide public investment programmes.
>
> "Those, together, provide for us the appropriate healing therapy for a country that has emerged from a massively devastating internal conflict, in terms of loss of innocent lives, displaced people and wide-ranging destruction of physical infrastructure. We are at the same time cognizant of the remaining huge challenges to healing. On behalf of the people of Sierra Leone and in my own name, I wish to reiterate our very firm commitment to sustaining our transformation.
>
> "About 23 years ago, war broke out in our beloved nation. The conflict brought out the worst hatred and criminality in a few Sierra Leoneans and their international backers, but it also inspired the best resilience in the overwhelming majority of our people. The great majority of our compatriots — including members of the armed forces, the military, the police and the civil defence forces, as well as civil society at large — resisted the onslaught on their humanity. So many of our people suffered in the process, and so many were displaced, murdered and wounded, but they stood firm, held on to their spirits and ushered in a return to peace, security, democracy and civilian rule in 1996. But unfortunately, the struggles continued until the war was formally declared over in January 2002.
>
> "We were not alone in our actions for peace, democracy and security. Members of the Economic Community of West African States, particularly Nigeria and the Republic of Guinea, were among the first to join our resistance to the carnage. The United Nations, the United Kingdom and other friends of Sierra Leone later joined the concerted efforts to put an end to the carnage and ensure that our nation once again joined the ranks of peaceful, stable and democratic countries.
>
> "We have in diverse ways tried to honour the memory of the people — men and women — whose perseverance, dedicated service and sacrifice brought peace and healing to the nation. At this moment, I would kindly ask that the Council join us in remembering them in a quiet moment and to remember a strong pioneer for national peace and reconciliation, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, former President of Sierra Leone, who passed away on Thursday, 13 March and was laid to rest on Sunday, 23 March. May their souls and the souls of all faithful departed rest in perfect peace.
>
> "Today, we are here to recognize a significant transition in our actions to move towards a democratic, peaceful, stable, developing and prosperous country. We have seen several United Nations transitions in Sierra Leone, commencing in 1998 with the transition to the United Nation Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, to monitor and observe efforts to disarm, demobilize and socially reintegrate ex-combatants while at the same restructuring the security forces. That was followed by the transition to the much larger United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in 1999, which focused on the implementation of the Lomé Peace Accord, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, while continuing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the resettlement, rehabilitation and

reconstruction processes. That was then followed by the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone in 2006, which supported the Government in consolidating the peace, security and democracy. That in turn was followed, finally, by the United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in 2008.

"UNIPSIL has been pivotal in many processes in the country, including furthering the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court for Sierra Leone; building civil society capacities and promoting political dialogue, human rights, good governance and the rule of law; undertaking comprehensive security sector reform; furthering gender empowerment; contributing to the holding of credible internationally recognized elections in 2012; and in transforming the Government-owned broadcasting service into an independent public service broadcaster, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC).

"The SLBC is still facing certain challenges, but it has been a worthwhile transformation. More than at any time in the nation's history, there is now greater diversity of information and opinions thanks to it, and its reach is wider than in the decades before. Those are laudable achievements, but the partnership to improve its financial base, technical competencies and coverage must continue.

"The transition we are recognizing today is a very special one. It is a transition that crowns with success all the preceding transitions. The goal of all the other transitions was to bring the country to this particular stage — a country that once received peacekeepers is now contributing peacekeepers to other countries; a country that was once a byword for humanitarian crisis now has one of the fastest growing economies in the world; a country that succumbed to military dictatorship has held a succession of free and fair elections; a country rocked by armed and uncivil divisions is healing itself, thanks to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the perseverance of our people and the commitment of the United Nations and our many international friends. That we are now inaugurating another profound shift in the core mandate of the United Nations in Sierra Leone, from peace consolidation to development, shows that the Organization has always aligned its actions with the aspirations of our people.

"On becoming President in 2007, I signalled my determination to move the country towards economic development and prosperity. The United Nations has been a valued partner in that transformation. The indicators of the transformation are more evident in every part of the country today than at any time in its history. We are constructing roads in our cities and towns. We are regenerating agricultural productivity and significantly re-establishing food self-sufficiency. We are ensuring greater access to health care for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children than at any time in our country's history. We are providing more funding for education and seeing increases in school enrolment rates. We are promoting small and medium-sized enterprises and attracting large-scale investment and creating job opportunities for all. We are expanding the provision of electricity and ensuring that more women are in positions of authority in the Government, security forces and other key institutions and organizations within the country.

"Now, we have taken a collective decision to move towards becoming a middle-income nation by 2030, in alignment with the targets of the United Nations sustainable development goals. Moving the target date from 2035 to 2030 was inspired by the Secretary-General himself. We have commenced the implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity, the first five-year national plan towards achieving the goal of middle-income status, and we welcome the alignment of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework with our Agenda for Prosperity.

"As I intimated earlier, we still face formidable challenges going forward, but we are inspired by the commitment of the United Nations to support us in meeting them through its new United Nations country team. We also welcome the commitment of the United Nations to supporting our Constitutional Review Committee, the Political Parties Registration Commission and other good-governance institutions. A successful partnership is one that is underpinned by an alignment of goals and aspirations. We salute the United Nations for being an avid supporter of such alignments.

"Today, Sierra Leone is addressing this body for the last time as a subject for its consideration. We have now moved from a country on the Security Council's agenda to a nation that is a storehouse of lessons on how to successfully move away from war to peace and development.

"With UNIPSIL's closure, Sierra Leone is leaving fragility behind. We are improving our international risk profile as a post-conflict country and advancing confidence as a destination for quality investment. Those are valuable prerequisites for putting the very negative insignia of a blood-diamond nation behind us. We are now harnessing our diamonds and all our other natural resources for purposes of ensuring sustainable development and national prosperity.

"Our people have shown determination and great dignity during all the transitions I have mentioned. We have built enduring partnerships for dignity, peace, security, democracy and sustainable development, and we remain committed to continuing to work with the Peacebuilding Commission and other partners to promote those overarching aspirations both in Sierra Leone and in the wider world.

"We salute the leaders and members of the various configurations for peace, justice and development in Sierra Leone, including the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the Peacebuilding Commission, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Guinea, the Netherlands, Canada, and all other development partners, including Arab funding agencies.

"The journey has been a challenging one, and there are remaining challenges, no doubt. But there shall be no turning back; we shall continue to be a force for peace in the world, a symbol of successful transformation and a partner for peace, security, democracy and development."

In closing, I should like on behalf of His Excellency the President, the Government and the people of Sierra Leone to recognize the sentiments and words of encouragement that I have received from all present here. I also want to recognize the good work of the outgoing Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, and wish him and his wife every success in their future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to thank Ambassador Rishchynski for his efforts in undertaking the residual functions of the Peacebuilding Commission. He is still around, and I am sure that his heart is still in Sierra Leone.

The President (*spoke in French*): After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf.

(*spoke in English*)

"As the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) completes its mandate on 31 March 2014, the Security Council commends the remarkable achievements made by Sierra Leone over the past decade as well as its contribution to important regional and global initiatives. The Security Council further commends the effectiveness of the approach of the United Nations, international financial institutions, regional and subregional bodies and the broader international community to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council welcomes the considerable progress that has been made by Sierra Leone in strengthening institutional and human resources capacities of State institutions, including in the security, justice and governance sectors, which play crucial roles in safeguarding stability and promoting democracy.

"The Security Council also welcomes the successful presidential and parliamentary elections conducted in 2012, which have helped to consolidate Sierra Leone's democratic institutions.

"The Security Council recognises the important contribution of UNIPSIL in promoting peace, stability and development in Sierra Leone, particularly during the 2012 electoral process. The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Mission and the United Nations country team, under the leadership of the Executive Representatives of the Secretary-General.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of continued support to Sierra Leone as it embarks on the next stage of its development, beyond UNIPSIL, including the constitutional review process, and notes the willingness of the United Nations and bilateral and multilateral partners to continue, as requested by the Sierra Leonean authorities, to play a significant role in this

regard. In addition, the Security Council urges the international community and development partners to continue to provide coordinated and coherent support to Sierra Leone to meet its peacebuilding and development priorities.

"The Security Council stresses that there is important work ahead to further embed peace and secure equitable prosperity for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans. The Security Council welcomes the adoption by the Government of Sierra Leone of the Agenda for Prosperity, covering the period from 2013 to 2018, and notes the importance of the implementation of this programme in accordance with the mutual accountability framework agreed between the Government of Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone's Development Partners Committee in March 2013.

"The Security Council reaffirms the important potential role of extractive industries in Sierra Leone's economic development, and encourages the Government of Sierra Leone and international partners to strengthen protection of workers' rights and national capacities for transparent regulation, oversight, and revenue collection from such industries, as well as to address issues of land ownership with a view to establishing mutually beneficial arrangements for local communities and the private sector, and calls upon the Government to tackle corruption.

"The Security Council stresses the importance for Sierra Leone's long-term stability of ensuring a peaceful, credible and transparent electoral process in 2017.

"The Security Council reiterates its request in resolution 2097 (2013) that the United Nations Office for West Africa make available its good offices to support the Government of Sierra Leone and the new United Nations Resident Coordinator as necessary.

"The Security Council welcomes the work of the Sierra Leone Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Security Council recalls its request in resolution 2097 (2013) for the Peacebuilding Commission to review its engagement with a view to scaling down its role and welcomes the Commission's shift to a lighter form of engagement for a transitional period over next 12 months, as outlined in its report to the Council (S/2014/211). The Security Council requests that Sierra Leone contribute to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission to gather lessons learnt and best practices.

"The Security Council congratulates the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the completion of its mandate, recalls the strong support it expressed for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone as it commences its functioning, and reiterates its call in resolution 2097 (2013) for Member States to contribute generously."

(*spoke in French*)

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2014/6.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7149

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7149th meeting
Thursday, 27 March 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Lucas	(Luxembourg)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2110 (2013) (S/2014/190)

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2014/191)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-27874 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2110 (2013) (S/2014/190)

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2014/191)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Iraq to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/190, which contains the second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2110 (2013). I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/191, which contains the second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2107 (2013).

I now give the floor to Mr. Mladenov.

Mr. Mladenov: I am honoured to present to the Council today two reports of the Secretary-General. The first report is pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2110 (2013) (S/2014/190) on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the most recent developments in Iraq. The second report is pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2014/191).

During my last briefing (see S/PV.7068), I stressed that Iraq's future cannot be considered in isolation from the broader challenges that the region is facing. As divisions continue to plague Iraqi politics, the ongoing conflict in Syria has added a regional dimension to sectarian tensions and is affording terrorist networks the occasion to forge links across the border and expand their support base. The situation is further compounded by unresolved constitutional issues that constantly bring to the fore the existing tensions between Iraq's communities. All that makes for a fragile and explosive combination.

Today more than ever, Iraq's political, civic and religious leaders have the responsibility and duty to promote national unity so as to engage all Iraqis as stakeholders in the construction of a democratic future for their country. Participants in that endeavour will not only have to brave the threats of rising violence from terrorist activities, they will also have to acknowledge the need for compromises on pressing matters related to the national budget and revenue sharing.

The need for unity is currently most visible in Anbar governorate, from which the most serious threat to the security of the country emanates. That threat is beginning to affect other parts of the country. The country's security is strained by well-armed and well-trained terrorist groups with access to substantial financial resources. Their goal is clear: to establish a permanent foothold beyond the control of the authorities and to consolidate a base for the expansion of their operations. They exploit divisions and weaknesses in Iraqi society and want to ultimately make the country ungovernable.

Over the past few weeks, the capital of Anbar governorate, the city of Ramadi, has returned to Government control. Although isolated pockets of fighting remain, the local authorities and the security forces face the difficult task of clearing out buildings and securing roads that have been booby-trapped with sophisticated explosives by the terrorists. Those traps have considerably slowed down the process of return for those families who want to go back to their properties.

The situation in the city of Fallujah, which remains under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other armed groups remains a source of concern. The city is surrounded by Iraqi security forces. Civilian casualties and sporadic shelling of neighbourhoods and civilian have been reported. Indeed, on at least one occasion, shelling hit the general hospital. Many people have fled. However, large numbers of residents remain trapped inside the city, with nowhere to go and limited, if any, access to food and basic services.

Since the beginning of the crisis, I have called on the Government of Iraq to exercise restraint in taking

military or paramilitary action and to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of civilian life and property. I welcome the assurances provided by the Prime Minister of Iraq that Iraqi security forces will not enter the city and that the Government is seeking a political solution that would allow the legitimate authorities to return to Fallujah. The United Nations is also closely following all attempts to broker a peaceful solution.

Since the beginning of the crisis, I have also engaged in intensive meetings with leaders from across the spectrum of Iraqi politics. In all meetings, I have stressed that, while the United Nations will support Iraq's fight against terrorism, the challenges facing the people of Iraq cannot be resolved without dialogue and concessions.

While a security response is necessary to tackle the threat of armed groups and terrorists, a range of strategies is needed to successfully address the conditions that enable terrorist activity. The protection and advancement of human rights, equality before the law and the inclusion of those who feel marginalized will become central in any political resolution in the future. Those messages were boosted by the timely visit of the Secretary-General in January, during which he stressed the need for unity and a holistic approach to the problem of violence in Iraq.

The Government of Iraq has furthermore attempted to resolve the crisis on the basis of a 14-point plan to restore stability and security in Anbar. The plan has put in motion a process that aims to build confidence among federal, provincial and local actors and establish strategic cooperation on the ground. It offers a time-bound cessation of hostilities and an amnesty period for insurgents who are not affiliated with the terrorist groups. Another key feature is the boosting of provincial police resources through the recruitment of approximately 10,000 local tribal members. The Government has also decided to allocate new funding in order to compensate families and communities who have been most affected by the fighting and to support development projects in Anbar.

Less than a month after the plan's adoption, 5,000 tribal members from Anbar and an additional 7,000 local Anbar residents have already been recruited, while 1,940 displaced families have received funding. However, the cessation of hostilities was short-lived, underscoring the nature of the threat facing Iraq and its neighbours.

The signs are not promising for an early resolution of the crisis. The United Nations continues to closely follow all attempts to find a peaceful solution. All our interlocutors in Baghdad and Erbil expressed their support for the United Nations as an impartial and trusted partner.

In such a volatile situation, the United Nations primary concern has been to provide lifesaving assistance to those displaced by the fighting. Three months of fighting has led to the displacement of over 66,000 families, which represents just over 400,000 people. Many remain trapped in areas of active conflict. The intensity and nature of the fighting is significantly constraining regular access by the United Nations and other humanitarian actors to those affected.

Despite the difficult circumstances, the United Nations is delivering assistance where it can and recently accessed areas that were previously unreachable. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Government of Iraq, provincial authorities, Iraqi security forces and our local partners and national staff who have made that possible. Unfortunately, with many stocks drawn from our reserves in Iraq, our own and our partners' resources are diminishing rapidly.

Let me be absolutely clear: without securing additional funding, the United Nations will very soon be unable to continue its humanitarian assistance to those fleeing the fighting in Anbar. I am aware that a number of Governments have indicated their willingness to consider co-funding on the condition that the Government of Iraq contribute to the $103.7 million strategic response plan, which we put forward and launched earlier in March. Given the compelling humanitarian needs, the capacity of the United Nations and its partners and the impartiality of the assistance provided through the United Nations, I call on the Government of Iraq and the international community to urgently support the strategic response plan.

The Anbar crisis poses the most serious challenge to the Government of Iraq's efforts to maintain the very stability and security needed for building a democratic State. Since the onset of the crisis in late December 2013, the Council of Representatives, for example, has witnessed boycotts by three of its largest blocs. That has resulted in the Council's inability to secure a quorum for the majority of its meetings. It has also brought the entire legislative process to a halt during this critical time.

The approval of the federal budget law has emerged as a significant challenge. It has been affected by unresolved negotiations between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government on oil-export rights and the sharing of revenues derived from oil products. The situation escalated when the budget transfer to the Kurdistan Regional Government was halted in February.

To resolve the budget dispute, both the federal and regional Governments engaged with each other through the exchange of official and technical visits, as further delays in the budget law could very soon place serious constraints on the federal Government's spending, including in areas of delivering services. I have extended my good offices to facilitate that dialogue in order to reach a robust and transparent agreement on the equitable distribution of budget allocations derived, in part, from oil and gas exports.

I would like to welcome the vital and constructive engagement by the United States in facilitating an interim arrangement that would now allow for the negotiations to continue, with the goal of adopting the 2014 budget with the agreement of all components of Iraqi society.

Under that interim arrangement, I further welcome the decision of the Kurdistan Regional Government to begin exporting 100,000 barrels of oil per day through Iraq's existing pipeline network to Turkey without preconditions. To build on that first step, experts from the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government should meet soon to assess future month-to-month export targets based on technical capacities and in a manner consistent with the Iraqi Constitution.

Both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government have taken steps that should allow for progress to be made on all outstanding issues related to the management of the hydrocarbon sector and revenue sharing, as required by the Constitution. I take this opportunity to once again urge all parties to work in a spirit of compromise with the goal of quickly resolving all issues related to the approval of the 2014 federal budget law. UNAMI stands ready to assist in that process.

In just over a month, on 30 April, Iraqis are scheduled to head to the polls to choose their national representatives. It will be Iraq's third national election under the 2005 Constitution, and it is likely to be its most contested race to date. On the same day, voters in the Kurdistan region will also choose their governorate council representatives.

I am pleased to report that technical preparations are on track, including the distribution of approximately 75 per cent of the new electronic voter registration cards. In addition, security arrangements are being put in place for the elections. Those preparations cover areas of the Anbar governorate that are accessible to the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and its officials.

UNAMI continues to provide technical advice to the Commission. In addition, we have embedded a staff member within the Commission who will work to ensure that voters reach voting centres as safely as possible. UNAMI is also working with the IHEC to ensure that the displaced residents of Anbar can take part in the elections.

However, there are concerning reports of the security situation in some parts of Diyala and Baghdad governorates, where, according to some sources, armed groups or militias may have targeted and intimidated the local population. I call upon the Government of Iraq to ensure that security returns to those provinces and that such allegations are investigated. All communities should be able to freely participate in the forthcoming elections. Indeed, they should be encouraged to do so. As such, we are confident that, from a technical perspective, the two elections can take place on time. The IHEC is also conducting a large-scale out-of-country voting operation, which will include 19 countries and will allow Iraqis living abroad to register and vote in the general elections.

Over the past few days, some controversy has emerged over the decision of the Electoral Judicial Panel to disqualify certain candidates from participating in the election. Most recently, the IHEC commissioners submitted their resignations, allegedly over political pressure being exerted on their work. I reiterate my full support for the independence and integrity of the Independent High Electoral Commission. The Commission's independence is guaranteed by the Constitution, and I call on all political entities to protect its integrity.

The Commission has demonstrated a high level of professionalism. It has the technical capacity to organize the forthcoming elections, and there is no reason to delay them. I would like to commend its efforts to establish the necessary procedures to ensure

the effective participation and representation of women in the electoral process, and urge it to continue its work. All concerns should be handled within the Constitution and the legal process. The people of Iraq must not be prevented from voting and choosing their representatives on 30 April. Any delay for political or other reasons will set a dangerous precedent for the country.

A transparent and credible election is one of the pillars of democracy. I want to take this opportunity to encourage the people of Iraq to vote and to make an informed choice on the basis of strong political platforms that promote a harmonious and cohesive society that represents all religious and ethnic affiliations. I appeal to the political parties to focus their platforms on the future, not the past. The people of Iraq deserve the opportunity to make a free choice for the future to which they aspire.

On this occasion, I would also like to call on the political leaders of the Kurdistan region to work together and to finalize the formation of the Kurdistan Regional Government after the successful elections in September 2013.

Iraq continues to implement the death penalty. In 2013, 177 Iraqis were executed, followed by another 50 this year. I wish to reiterate the Secretary-General's call for Iraq to consider a moratorium on all executions, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and international conventions. Such international instruments have defined the standards governing the use and implementation of the death penalty. Those standards also require that no person who was under the age of 18 at the time the crime was committed should be executed. Iraq currently has two men on death row who were under 18 when the crimes for which they have been convicted were perpetrated.

I would now like to address the issue of the residents of the temporary transit location at Camp Hurriya. To date, 356 residents have been relocated outside Iraq, with the largest number being accepted in Albania and Germany.

I welcome the appointment of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the relocation of the residents, Ms. Jane Holl Lute, as a positive step for engagement with the international community on finding relocation countries. I commend the recent steps taken by the United States, including a recent decision to resettle a number of those residents in the United States, as well as to provide $1 million in seed funding to the United Nations multi-donor funded project — the trust fund, as it is known — to support their resettlement and integration in third countries. I also call on the Government of Iraq to ensure that all security and humanitarian arrangements are provided for the Camp Hurriya residents in accordance with the signed memorandum of understanding.

On a separate note, I would like to mention that the Mission continues to face some operational challenges due to the absence of a status-of-mission agreement 10 years after the Mission's establishment. I want to reiterate our call to the Government of Iraq to swiftly support the finalization, signing and entry into force of the status-of-mission agreement without further delay.

The United Nations plays an important role in Iraq in promoting political dialogue and human rights, as well as in engaging in the development agenda. I would like to thank the United Nations country team and our partners in the Iraqi Government for finalizing a new United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Iraq for the period 2015 to 2019. While it will continue to provide the basis for development assistance, it should also support efforts to enhance social cohesion in the country.

The people of Iraq are tired of war and confrontation. They want to reconstruct their country and use their wealth to the benefit of all. They need to build thousands of schools to prepare their children for the future, and to invest in a modern health-care system. They need an independent judiciary and a modern public administration. They need a vibrant civil society and a dynamic private sector. They aspire to uproot corruption and sectarianism. No one in Iraq would disagree that those are the long-term challenges that everyone in the country faces in seeking Iraq's social, political and economic development. Everyone welcomes the role of the United Nations in supporting Iraq's critical transition.

The people of Iraq look to UNAMI to be an impartial partner and expect the United Nations country team to bring forward international experience and expertise to assist their difficult transition to democracy. They also look to the Security Council to continue to guide us in an united manner.

I now wish to briefly turn to and present the second report of the Secretary-General on the issues of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing

Kuwaiti property, including its national archives, pursuant to resolution 2107 (2013).

I visited Kuwait for the first time in my capacity as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on 17 and 18 March. I had the honour to meet His Highness the Emir, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and the Emir's adviser, as well as the National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs. I was very gratified to see the Kuwaiti leadership's strong wish for stability in Iraq. The Emir and others made it clear that they desired nothing less for Iraq than peace, stability and prosperity.

It is therefore comforting that my political deputy, Ambassador Gyorgy Busztin, carries out his duties as the overseer of that mandate against the very conducive backdrop of strong Iraq-Kuwait ties. During the reporting period, UNAMI served as an observer to Iraq's two interministerial bodies on missing Kuwaiti nationals and property. We note the sincerity and resolve of the Iraqis. However, it is with much regret that, despite the sincerity, time and effort that Iraq continues to invest in that humanitarian endeavour, I can report no new results with regard to the issue of missing persons.

Kuwait's National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs is seriously concerned that, with each passing day, the search for those missing becomes harder. Those in possession of information may become more removed and inaccessible. Despite the lack of progress during the past decade, the Committee members demonstrate an admirable sense of purpose and resolve. I have the highest respect for the Committee and for the families of the missing. The Committee joins UNAMI in approaching the issue, including missing Iraqis on its soil, as a humanitarian task.

Loss and pain clearly transcend nationalities. Any family with a missing member, be they Iraqi or Kuwaiti, would relate to the grief and pain of the other. As I wonder about what has sustained those families who have no knowledge or information of their loved ones, I realize that it is their unyielding hope that keeps them going, even though no remains have been found since 2004.

I believe that there are a number of ways in which UNAMI can assist on that issue, including through adopting a new local approach to searching for information, maintaining the spotlight on that very important and sensitive humanitarian issue and assessing how it could best assist in the search for useful information from a wider circle of potential sources.

Needless to say, I am also pleased that 100,000 books, academic theses and other objects belonging to Kuwait have been found and collected in recent months. UNAMI has suggested for the two property committees to convene in the near future and for Iraq to use the occasion to return Kuwaiti belongings. I believe that those meetings between the two property committees should happen on a more regular basis in order not only to build understanding and empathy between the two sides but also to devise practical means of achieving a breakthrough on the national archives.

On the question of the national archives, I would aiso like to express my disappointment that not a single lead has emerged so far. UNAMI is working very closely with the Government of Iraq to assess existing archival arrangements.

As Iraq completes its payment of compensation to Kuwait, in 2015, I would very much welcome the opportunity to be able to announce progress on the issue of the missing Kuwaiti nationals and property. I am convinced that is Iraq's wish as much as Kuwait's. On behalf of UNAMI, I would like to assure the Council that we will do everything in our ability to make that happen. I am more than ever convinced that the outstanding humanitarian issue of the missing Kuwaiti nationals, as well as of missing property, including the national archives, must be brought to closure without further delay so that the two countries can definitively turn the page.

With the support of Member States, UNAMI will continue to assist the people and the Government of Iraq in implementing the Mission's mandate. I thank the Government and people of Iraq for their cooperation. I especially wish to thank our staff, national and international, as well as the Secretariat, for their dedication, without which our mission would be impossible. I also wish to place on record my deep gratitude to the Security Council for its continued support.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Mladenov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Luxembourg on its

assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and for its considerable efforts and excellent organization of the Council's work in a very busy month, thereby setting an example of the effective role that non-permanent members of the Council can play. I am also pleased to welcome Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and to thank him for his briefing highlighting his team's efforts to achieve the mission's mandate and objectives in assisting Iraq at this delicate stage.

As mentioned in the Secretary-General's most recent report to the Council (S/2014/190), our citizens in Anbar province have been subjected for months to a vicious attack conducted by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. That group, which is affiliated with the Al-Qaida terrorist organization, has infiltrated and ravaged Ramadi and Fallujah, blocking roads, terrorizing citizens and committing massacres against civilians. The Iraqi armed forces, in cooperation and coordination with tribes of the region and the local police, have confronted the terrorists, expelled them and regained control over most of the areas outside the cities where they were based.

Out of concern for the lives of civilians, Iraqi forces have refrained from setting off a military confrontation in Fallujah. They have besieged the city to prevent terrorists from escaping and have sought the help of local authorities in confronting terrorists in order to minimize civilian losses and abide by international humanitarian law. Meanwhile, the Iraqi Government, in coordination with UNAMI, has provided assistance to the affected citizens in Anbar province who were displaced from the areas that were targeted by terrorist organizations. It has also helped them to return to their homes while moving forward with its operations in Anbar.

Our bitter experience over the past few years has taught us that mere military confrontation will not stop terrorism or resolve the issue of the factional, ethnic and regional divisions that are being exploited by violent terrorism. We are therefore working to end the causes of discontent and frustration that the terrorists are exploiting. To that end, Iraq has adopted a comprehensive multifaceted strategy for a constitutional system of Government to ensure that all sectors of society benefit from economic development. In the past few months, we have also allocated an economic assistance package worth $1 billion for rebuilding and developing Anbar province.

In the past few years, Iraq has been dealing with vicious and wide-scale attacks from terrorist organizations aimed at derailing the country's political process and institutions through indiscriminate killing, which affects all Iraqi communities and groups. As terrorism knows no borders, it will spread unless it is checked. In mid-March, Iraq hosted 50 States and organizations participating in the first Baghdad International Counter-Terrorism Conference, in an effort to eliminate a scourge that has caused Iraq significant suffering. We mobilized every means possible for that effort. In his statement to the Conference, Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki stated that Iraq had repeatedly warned of the spread of terrorism and extremism and that their continued existence in Iraq and Syria would eventually lead to their spread throughout the region and around the world — terrorism knows no borders and no State is immune to its threat. The Prime Minister also called on the international community to cooperate in combating terrorism. In that we regard, we would like to express our thanks to the Security Council for supporting the efforts of the Iraqi Government in fighting terrorism through its most recent presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/1).

We would also like to thank the Head of the European Union delegation in Iraq, Ms. Jana Hybáškova, who, in her statement at the opening of the Baghdad Conference, said that the European Union's 28 States members supported Iraq's ongoing efforts against terrorism. She also called on States to mobilize and take speedy deterrent measures, such as security and intelligence coordination among the countries of the region, with a view to dismantling terrorist networks, and to work collectively to cut off terrorism's financing sources, impose sanctions and ban activities promoting terrorist ideologies. We are fighting terrorism on behalf of all those present here. We therefore look forward to the Council's constructive and systematic assistance in preventing the spread of terrorism and, ultimately, eliminating it.

Three years ago, we said that the absence of a solution to the conflict in Syria would lead to the expansion of terrorist organizations' activities in the region. Terrorism eventually reached Iraq and other neighbouring countries, and it continues to spread as the second Geneva Conference on Syria has failed. From this Chamber, we would like to reaffirm the

urgent need for finding a political solution to the Syrian tragedy, which, according to many observers, has become the worst of this century.

In spite of the security challenges Iraq faces and the difficult humanitarian situation in Anbar, we are currently hosting more than a quarter million Syrian nationals. We would therefore like to appeal to the Security Council to punish States that allow terrorist fighters to mobilize in their territories and force them into other countries, in a dirty war against humanity, stability and development.

The security and humanitarian difficulties have not prevented Iraq from pursuing its path to democracy. All political forces active on the Iraqi scene stress the importance of taking part in the next general elections. The Independent High Electoral Commission is working tirelessly to conduct the elections on the scheduled date of 30 April. The Commission is intent on holding free, fair and constitutional elections under the oversight of international observers, as has been the case in the past three elections.

In that vein, based on our firm conviction of the important role that women can play in the prevention and settlement of conflicts and in peacebuilding and peacekeeping, we have launched a national plan for the period 2014 to 2018 purusant to resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. Iraq has thereby become the first country in the Middle East and North African region to have launched such a plan.

Iraq continues to pursue a foreign policy based on common interests and non-interference in internal affairs, respect for international law and commitment to its obligations. Over the past few months, we have been able to strengthen cooperation with fraternal Kuwait to unprecedented levels. Many bilateral conventions have been signed, including in the areas of investment security and tourism. Iraq and Kuwait have also jointly deposited with the Secretary-General a bilateral convention on joint administration of navigation in the Khor Abdallah waterway. Iraq continues to to make tireless efforts to find the remains of missing Kuwaiti nationals as well as that country's national archives. We are resolutely striving to achieve tangible results on those two issues.

In addition to Iraq's success in restoring ties with the State of Kuwait, we have also been able to reach agreement with our neighbour the Islamic Republic of Iran on the demarcation of land and river borders in the Shatt Al-Arab region. Once we conclude an agreement, Iraq will have settled all outstanding border issues with neighbouring countries, thereby opening the way for developing ties and cooperation with all our neighbours in all areas. In that regard, we would like to welcome the decision by the Islamic Republic of Iran to grant amnesty to hundreds of its nationals from the Mojahedin-e-Khalq terrorist organization currently residing at Camp Hurriya in Baghdad and allow them to return to Iran. We call upon the international community to assist Iraq in relocating the remaining members of that terrorist organization to other countries and putting an end to their illegal presence in Iraq for more than two decades.

In conclusion, we highly value the efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq in providing advice and support to the Iraqi Government, particularly with regard to the comprehensive political dialogue among Iraqi factions and in providing technical assistance to guarantee that the parliamentary elections are free and fair. We would be remiss if we did not stress our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Mladenov and his team for their dedication. We wish them further success in assisting Iraq.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7150

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7150th meeting
Friday, 28 March 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Lucas	(Luxembourg)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Llanos
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (S/2014/153)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2014/157)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-27880 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2014/153)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2014/157)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/222, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Luxembourg and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/153, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.

I also wish to draw the Council's attention to document S/2014/157, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2147 (2014).

I shall now give the floor to the member of the Council who wishes to make a statement following the voting.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): I take the floor to explain Rwanda's vote on resolution 2147 (2014), which renews the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including the Force Intervention Brigade, for an additional year.

First of all, I would like to thank Ambassador Gérard Araud of France, penholder on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the usual good conduct of the negotiations that enabled the Security Council to adopt the resolution unanimously. I equally appreciate the role played by Ambassador Samantha Power of the United States in ensuring consensus on that important text. I also thank all Council members for the contributions and flexibility throughout the negotiating process.

Rwanda hopes that this mandate renewal, in particular of the Force Intervention Brigade, revives MONUSCO's mission to neutralize armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially the so-called Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), which continue to pose a sustained threat against populations in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and against my country, Rwanda.

Like resolution 2136 (2014), of 30 January 2014, the resolution just adopted recalls, in its twelfth preambuar paragraph, that the FDLR is

> "a group under United Nations sanctions whose leaders and members include perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and have continued to promote and commit ethnically based and other killings in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

Indeed, for the past 20 years, the FDLR has continued to destabilize the region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Reports from non-governmental

organizations and the United Nations have implicated the group in widespread rape, killing and other atrocities in the eastern part of the country. It continues to use children as soldiers and slaves. And it has held hostage refugees who are willing to return to Rwanda. Also, just recently, innocent civilians in my country were killed as a result of renewed attacks by the FDLR in public markets and bus stations, mostly in the city of Kigali.

In resolution 2147 (2014), the Security Council expresses its concern that the FDLR has continued to have freedom of movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also reaffirms its commitment to eliminate the great threat posed by that genocidal movement through sustained actions by the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC), MONUSCO and the Force Intervention Brigade. That is also in line with the recent meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region held in Luanda on 25 March, which called for coordinated efforts to urgently engage military action against the FDLR and to continue to repatriate those willing to disarm.

That mandate is one aspect of a comprehensive plan to permanently address issues of insecurity, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for MONUSCO and the Intervention Brigade to support the FARDC to put such plans into sustained action. We urge the Council to ensure accountability for its implementation.

Finally, through its national, bilateral and regional commitments, Rwanda reiterates its unwavering support to peace, stability and prosperity in our region.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Ngwej (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): As Luxembourg's presidency of the Security Council comes to an end, allow me, first of all, to congratulate you, Madam President, on your conduct of the business of this principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. I once again reiterate how pleased we are to see you presiding over the Council during the month of March.

I would also like once again to reiterate to the Council the gratitude of the people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the efforts made by the United Nations to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country and to ensure peace and stability.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his steadfast attention and personal involvement in working to strengthen peace in my country.

The Security Council has just adopted resolution 2147 (2014), which renews the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the Force Intervention Brigade. We are all aware today of the effective and commendable role played by the Brigade alongside the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) to assert the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country and to restore State authority throughout the national territory.

That is why the second mandate of the Force Intervention Brigade should marshal the efforts already made to consolidate and preserve lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and throughout the entire Great Lakes region. I wish sincerely to thank the Council for that renewal, which is so crucial to securing my country. I would also like to assure the Council that, on its part, the Congolese Government, in line with its commitments, is currently preparing the rapid-reaction force that will take over from the Force Intervention Brigade when the time comes. The standing up of that force is at a very advanced stage, although not yet complete. The brigades that will make up the force have already been constituted and are currently being trained in the various specialties. Adequate equipment to enable the forces to carry out their mission is being acquired.

Parallel to that effort, significant progress has clearly been made in the fight against negative forces, the protection of civilian populations and the capacity of the Government to provide security for its population.

With specific regard to the fight against negative forces, we have prioritized the protection of the Congolese people and the preservation of our country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23) has been defeated. The fight against the Ugandan rebellion by the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda is coming to an end, followed by mopping up operations. Operations against the Forces démocratiques de

libération du Rwanda (FDLR) are about to begin. With regard to the threat posed by the rebellion by the Lord's Resistance Army, we welcome the efforts being undertaken, specifically by the American Government, to protect civilians from abuses by Joseph Kony and his associates.

This meeting provides us with an opportunity to reassure the Security Council of the determination of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to eradicate all negative forces without exception. That is a crucial element for the return of lasting peace, not only for our country but also for the region. We reiterate that decisive operations against the FDLR will not be delayed.

Today's resolution meets the expectations of the Congolese people, who wish to find the peace denied them for nearly two decades. It strengthens all the commendable initiatives aimed at the return of normalcy to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as throughout the region. In that connection, the mini-summit of the leaders of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) held in Luanda on 25 March, at the invitation of the Chairman-in-Office, His Excellency Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, addressed those very goals. The meeting discussed the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region and reiterated the need to neutralize negative forces by all means possible. The Luanda meeting also launched an urgent appeal to the various rebel groups, calling on them to take advantage of the political opening and opportunity for dialogue and to participate in the broader process of peace and social and political integration that is under way.

For its part, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has spared no effort to fulfil its responsibilities. With regard to the commitments flowing from the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement, on 11 February President Joseph Kabila Kabange promulgated the amnesty law covering insurrection, acts of war and political offences committed on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 18 February 2006 and 20 December 2013. The amnesty allows former rebels who are not responsible for crimes against humanity or war crimes to find a place in the national community, if they want one and undertake not to take up arms against their country. Efforts are under way to bring home as many eligible former rebels as possible.

Furthermore, a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme has been developed that fulfils the need for disarmament and civic and vocational education and seeks to achieve a successful reintegration process that is accepted by the communities that were once victimized. The identification of combatants from armed groups in North Kivu who have been assembled in Bweremana and Kanyaruchinya is completed. Those who are eligible for the third national DDR programme have begun to be evacuated to triage centres for DDR operations. At the same time, the evacuation of ex-Bakata Katanga combatants who qualify to the Kitona triage centre continues. A framework for dialogue with international partners has been established to harmonize views and thereby implement that programme in an orderly fashion.

In the same vein, under the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is holding consultations with host countries on the gradual return of Congolese people who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. We should also note the increasing number of internally displaced persons gradually returning to their home areas, which have become safe since the recovery of areas formerly occupied by hostile forces.

In the electoral sphere, the Democratic Republic of the Congo established a new Independent National Electoral Commission, which includes representatives from the majority, the opposition and civil society. Organizing and holding elections under the best possible conditions is a priority for the Government. We must now accelerate preparations for the elections, which are to be held according to the schedule laid out by the Commission, and we must manage that process in a peaceful environment. As to the role expected of the United Nations, I would like to reiterate the Government's request to receive appropriate logistical and technical support when needed.

In terms of our national reconciliation efforts, in October 2013 in Kinshasa, the Congolese Government brought together all of the nation's movers and shakers — the political class, the majority and the opposition and civil society — for national consultations. Participants stated their commitment to the country's unity and their respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity. More than 600 resolutions and recommendations resulted from those meetings, and will be without a doubt the basis for the Government's

programme for national cohesion, which the Head of State intends to introduce shortly.

In order to strengthen its young democracy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is pursuing without hesitation the process of decentralization that was started in 2006. With the end of the war and the restoration of State authority throughout the country, our country now intends to accelerate reforms. Significant progress in this area will be made despite the obvious difficulties inherent in such an undertaking.

The problems related to sexual violence, which are quite rightly cause for national and international concern, are always on the Government's emergency agenda. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has adopted a zero-tolerance policy in that respect, as shown by the uncompromising Minova trial and the indictment of several rebel leaders. Again, we would note that the pacification of the liberated areas has led to a significant reversal in the incidence of such abuses.

In order to fulfil its sovereign prerogatives, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has undertaken a thorough reform of its security sector.

Some concrete actions that have already been undertaken to make the defence of our country more effective and improve State authority include the reform of the structures and personnel of the army, security services and police; the defence forces' recruitment of Congolese youth from every province of the country; the reopening of military academies; and the training, with assistance from bilateral partners, of special forces and support units, with the primary aim, we would recall, of standing up the rapid reaction force.

With respect to training the national army, bilateral efforts have been given priority. We are in the process of implementing the relevant agreements, which have already been negotiated and concluded with certain countries. We thank all our bilateral and multilateral partners for this crucial support to security sector reform, which is in fact aimed at consolidating peace and security and will undoubtedly lead to the establishment of an army and a national police force that we hope will be professional, disciplined and competent.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo must, however, express some concerns. The first pertains compliance with the regional commitments undertaken in the implementation of the Framework Agreement signed in Addis Ababa. While our country strives to fulfil, one after the other, the responsibilities that have been assigned to it, some countries do not seem to care about fulfilling their own. I would like to draw the Council's kind attention to the fact that we feel that the international community is not paying due attention to this issue.

Among other things, I refer to the question of the significant weapons stocks found by our armed forces and MONUSCO after the defeat of M-23 and the liberation of the mountainous area of Tshanzu, which remains to this day unanswered. This question is worrying, as the quantity and type of military weapons found on-site indicate that the M-23's sponsors had prepared for a widespread and long-term war against our country. The United Nations, in its role as peacekeeper, must consider the true purpose of such a powerful arsenal and publicly denounce all the leaders of that criminal organization, which could have caused the death of several other million citizens. To maintain the fragile balance in the region, it would be wise for everyone to actually fulfil their commitments.

Our second concern relates to the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism. The Mechanism, which initially only included the delegates of chiefs of staff of the Congolese and Rwandan armies, was extended to include all the countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and, recently, South Africa, not to mention the representatives of MONUSCO and the African Union. The Mechanism, which remains essential, is sorely lacking the resources necessary to carry out its noble task. We would request the Security Council to include this issue among its priorities.

A third concern has to do with the illegal exploitation of natural resources. In the spirit of the Framework Agreement signed in Addis Ababa, this issue, like that of the hostile forces, was selected as being, fundamentally, one of the root causes of the cycle of violence in the region. While significant progress has been observed in fight against the hostile forces, the same is not true with this issue. We call for more diligence on the part of the Security Council in supporting the region's efforts to certify the origin of exported products. Even today, the official statistics of some countries in the region indicate the export of products in quantities incommensurate with their well-known mining resources.

In view of the reconfiguration of MONUSCO's mandate and the transfer of its responsibilities, the Government has taken note of the road map developed for the reallocation of MONUSCO's tasks to the United

Nations country team. It stands ready to discuss practical arrangements for the implementation of the road map, and would like to express its full confidence in the joint assessment team, which it calls on to shoulder more responsibility for the reconfiguration of the United Nations Mission with a view to a progressive and orderly withdrawal.

I cannot conclude my statement without expressing my Government's gratitude to Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to all the MONUSCO personnel and all the civilian and humanitarian staff who have been involved in the tireless efforts to achieve lasting peace and security in my country. It would be remiss of me if I did not express our gratitude to Mrs. Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, for her commitment and efforts in restoring lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region. I would also like to express my country's gratitude to all Council members for their devotion to the cause of peace and to restoring the dignity of the Congolese people.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7151

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2014

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7151st (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 31 March 2014, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 7151st meeting, held in private on 31 March 2014, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)'.

"The President invited the representatives of Austria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The President invited the representative of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"In accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard, the President invited the representative of the Observer State of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in this meeting.

"In accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard, the President invited the representative of the Observer State of the Holy See to the United Nations to participate in this meeting.

"The members of the Council had an exchange of views."

United Nations S/PV.7152

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7152nd meeting
Thursday, 3 April 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Gálvez
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Kazragienė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. Lord

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Special report of the Secretary-General on the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2014/138)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-28889 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council in the month of April 2014, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, for her service as President of the Council during the month of March. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all of the members of the Council in expressing my deep appreciation to Ambassador Lucas and her team for the great diplomatic skill and superlative performance of her delegation.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Special report of the Secretary-General on the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2014/138)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/236, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/138, which contains the special report of the Secretary-General on the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur .

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2148 (2014).

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Hassan (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, and the fraternal African State of Nigeria. When we speak of peace in the Sudan we must mention the important role of Nigeria with regard to the peace process in my country, both with regard to previous negotiations between the north and the south and the Abuja process, which led to the Abuja Agreement, and recently Nigeria's pivotal role in the political process and in supporting the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, as well as its contribution to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which is the subject of resolution 2148 (2014), adopted today.

We have carefully considered the reports of the Secretary-General on UNAMID and we fully agree with the efforts to enhance the Mission, given the positive developments in Darfur, which require a review of UNAMID's structure and priorities so that it serves the stabilization process and contributes to reinforcing the efforts to contain the recent tribal conflicts, which have led to a deterioration in the security situation in the Darfur region.

In the special report of the Secretary-General on the review of UNAMID (S/2014/138), three scenarios were presented. With regard to the resolution just adopted and the recommendations of the review, the Government of the Sudan supports the third scenario. Our objective is for those goals — that UNAMID's efficiency and performance improve and that we undertake actions to include all the non-participating movements in the peace process — to be met by February 2015.

I was keen to address the Council in this meeting to inform it that we launched a national dialogue in January. Our President's call was renewed in the Um Jaras meeting held in Chad. That was the second

meeting organized by Chad through the generous initiative of President Deby Itno. In that regard, we appreciate President Deby Itno's efforts. We expressed our full support for that meeting as a regional effort to eliminate the root causes of conflict and to enhance the dialogue in Darfur to persuade all the non-signatory movements to join the peace process. That is in line with the call for a comprehensive dialogue. We affirm that such a dialogue would not exclude anyone, not even the armed movements. There are no obstacles that would impede those movements from joining the dialogue.

We have currently moved from the stage of announcing the initiative to developing the practical steps to manage that dialogue. We are looking forward to next year, which is the deadline for the report reviewing the inclusion of all parties in the comprehensive political process.

In conclusion, we acknowledge that there has been a deterioration in the situation recently, but that was because of the intercommunal violence. We are working to contain that violence at the regional level through the meetings held in Um Jaras and through support for the Doha process and the dialogue within Darfur.

Intercommunal violence in Darfur has a long history. It is linked to land and water resources. We thank UNAMID for its efforts in that regard, which has undertaken many endeavours to contain the violence. We have so far worked on six reconciliation agreements between the tribes. Some of them were not successful, but we will continue to work to contain all conflict-based violence.

We hope that this will be a pivotal year and that the Secretary-General will include indications of improvement in his next report. In that case, perhaps the Council could make recommendations as to how UNAMID could focus on reconstruction and prosperity in Darfur instead.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7153

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7153rd meeting
Thursday, 10 April 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Llanos
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Jordan	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Lee Kyung Chul
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic submitted pursuant to paragraph 48 of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) (S/2014/142)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-29545 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic submitted pursuant to paragraph 48 of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) (S/2014/142)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Central African Republic to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad of the Central African Republic.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/252, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/142, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic submitted pursuant to paragraph 48 of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013). I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2149 (2014).

I shall now give the floor to the member of the Council who wishes to make a statement following the voting.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic, and his presence here in the Council.

Chad is pleased that resolution 2149 (2014)) was adopted unanimously. We voted in favour of it in the hope of seeing the international community mobilize all the resources necessary to help the Central African Republic emerge from the serious and unprecedented crisis it is undergoing. Chad has had a presence in the Central African Republic since 1994, in the various missions that have been deployed there on the initiative of the subregion, in the framework of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community or the Economic Community of Central African States. The Chadian contingent has thus been part of successive missions, including the Force multinationale de l'Afrique centrale, the Force multinationale en Centrafrique, the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX), in its incarnations as MICOPAX 1 and MICOPAX 2, and, finally, the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA). By participating in all those missions alongside the other nations of Central Africa, Chad has hoped to make a modest contribution within the strong collective will of the international community, with the aim of stabilizing the Central African Republic and helping it avoid a crisis with regional ramifications. In assisting it we are also hoping to contribute to our own security and that of the entire subregion.

As the Council is aware, in the wake of the serious accusations that have been made against our contingent within MISCA by the spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the incident that occurred on Saturday, 29 March in Bangui, Chad has decided to withdraw its contingent from MISCA. For months, and well before the accusations were made, Chad, whose presence is probably bothersome to the agendas of some, was a target of a particularly malicious media campaign. Though my vote, Chad reaffirms that its withdrawal from MISCA in no way diminishes its commitment and firm willingness to provide all possible support both to the Central African actors and to the efforts of the African Union and the entire international community in its quest for a way out of the crisis in the Central African Republic.

Despite the undeniable progress that has been made on the ground, thanks to the work of MISCA and the French forces of Operation Sangaris, whose courage and efforts we must commend, we should not forget that the situation remains serious and attacks on civilians continue. It is imperative that the international community demand that all those responsible, including the various militias, bring all the attacks on the peaceful civilian population to an immediate halt and refrain from any other action that might compromise efforts to restore peace, security and stability and promote national reconciliation. While awaiting for MINUSCA to effectively deploy, it is absolutely crucial that the international community take adequate measures to put an end to the massacres and the horrible scenes of lynching that have been perpetrated against the civilian population as a whole and Muslims in particular.

From this viewpoint, considering the seriousness of the situation, we believe the international community should increase its logistical and financial support to MISCA and speed up the deployment of police and gendarme units in every urban centre. It should also be remembered that the humanitarian situation remains extremely worrying, with hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and refugees. We appeal urgently to the international community to strengthen its humanitarian aid to the victims of violence, those displaced in Bangui and the other cities Central African Republic, as well as to the refugees in other countries of the subregion.

In conclusion, re-establishing trust among all the elements of Central African society and promoting a spirit of citizenship that transcends ethnic and religious differences are essential conditions for a return to lasting peace, tolerance and peaceful coexistence among the various communities of Central Africa.

The President: I now give the floor to the Foreign Minister of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Kongo-Doudou (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. On behalf of my Government, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Security Council for their unanimous adoption of resolution 2149 (2014), which paves the way for a solution that can end the crisis that the Central African Republic has undergone for more than a year.

Speaking in this Chamber on 6 March (see S/PV.7128), I urged the Security Council to endorse the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2014/142), as it took into account the various sensitivities and views of the national and international actors involved in settling the crisis. One month later, I am happy to say that my appeal has been heard. Today's resolution, which authorizes the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), marks a decisive stage in the process of restoring security and peace, and thus of stabilizing the country. This is the moment to once again reiterate the gratitude of the Central African people to the members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General and to convey how much the hope of an entire nation rests on this resolution. We also commend the remarkable efforts of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and of Operation Sangaris, which have enabled the worst possible scenario to be averted in Bangui and in the hinterland.

In giving its political backing to the Secretary-General's report and the need to deploy a peacekeeping operation, my Government sized up the extent and complexity of the crisis in the light of the limited capacity of the human and material resources that had been committed to it up until then. Following the adoption of the resolution, I would like here to reaffirm the Government's wish to reinforce MISCA prior to the deployment of the peacekeeping operation with the increase of 3,000 men, in accordance with the Secretary-General's proposal. I therefore urge the international community to continue to support the security sector in the Central African Republic by providing troops and other necessary resources as MINUSCA is set up.

In referring to the resolution just adopted, we are aware of the fact that the transitional authorities have the heavy responsibility of protecting the Central African people. However, how can we play that role effectively without defence and security forces — even if they are being re-established? Moreover, we cannot equip them with weapons, which are under embargo. In that regard, I reiterate the wish of the Central African Government to lighten the sanctions on the weapons embargo in order to be able to equip our defence and security forces, which will be trained, supervised and correctly identified in cooperation with the international community.

Beyond the security aspect, with the support of the international community we are committed to alleviating the humanitarian suffering of our people. To that end, we welcome the appeal made to donor countries in the resolution to make their pledges and follow through on them.

On the political front, the Council may rest assured that we have already started the process of national dialogue and reconciliation by establishing the key architecture to that end. I can assure the Council of the full determination of the transitional authorities to combat impunity by restoring the penal chain and by re-establishing administration throughout the country. That is an essential precondition for the proper holding of the elections required to restore democracy in the Central African Republic.

While noting the recommendations in the resolution, we will spare no effort to ensure our full readiness and cooperation in order to facilitate the establishemnt of the MINUSCA operations.

The Government, led by Her Excellency Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza and Prime Minister André Nzapayeke, is perfectly aware of the fact that it is not up to the international community to solve the problems in place of the Central Africans themselves. On the contrary, the United Nations is going to help us to establish the necessary framework to facilitate dialogue among the various political actors, civil society and others, since it is up to the Central Africans to sit down together and engage in dialogue so as to find lasting solutions to the many crises affecting the country.

The adoption of the resolution has been the conclusion of a lengthy process. We would like to thank the mediator for the Central African crisis, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, the current Chairman of the Economic Community of Central African States, President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, the African Union, France, the United States of America, the European Union, our bilateral and multilateral partners, and international non-governmental organizations and other national and international civil society actors, to whom we owe our gratitude for the efforts in the pursuit of peace and security.

In conclusion, I would like to to reaffirm the recommendations in my last statement to the Council that the Mission's leadership and Force Commander be African and that the linguistic criterion and the gender aspect be taken into account during the deployment of MINUSCA (see S/PV.7128).

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.